

UAE leader warns of foreign action

ABU DHABI (AP) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has warned that the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war will lead to a foreign intervention in the region, the UAE news agency WAM reported Saturday. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan spoke in Morocco during a meeting Friday with King Hassan II. The agency said it quoted the UAE president as also saying: "The flames of the Gulf war are about to spread" to other countries in the region. He urged Iran and Iraq "to extinguish the flames of the war today before it becomes too late for them to do so tomorrow, as the big powers will take over." WAM said Sheikh Zayed, who is on a private visit to Morocco, discussed with King Hassan the Gulf war and a newly concluded peace mission by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The UAE president said: "Since the start of the war we feared foreign intervention. We have repeatedly warned that continuation of the war would be the only pretext to bring superpowers closer to the Gulf region." Arab foreign ministers, meanwhile, were gathering in Tunisia for a meeting Sunday at the Arab League headquarters to discuss the Iran-Iraq war (See page 2).

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Rifai returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai returned home Saturday after a three-day visit to Switzerland where he attended His Majesty King Hussein's talks with the Swiss president. Mr. Rifai was met on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and a number of ministers.

Masri arrives in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri arrived here Saturday to head Jordan's delegation to the Arab League Council meeting that convenes today. In a statement on arrival, Mr. Masri expressed hope that the council meeting would take tougher action against Iran. He said that Arab national security is being threatened by Iran and that the whole world is looking on the Arabs to take a unified action. He said that the committee of seven received Chinese support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 during its recent visit to Peking.

Tunisian trial verdict delayed

TUNIS (AP) — Three members of a banned Muslim fundamentalist movement being tried in absentia have been arrested, delaying the verdict in the mass trial of Islamic radicals until next week, the court's presiding judge announced Saturday. The prosecution has asked for the death sentence for the 90 defendants on trial for threatening state security. The verdict had been expected late Saturday or early Sunday. Only 50 of the defendants have been present since the trial began Aug. 27 under heavy security in a police barracks. Presiding Judge Hashemi Zemal told the court that three of the 40 being tried in absentia have been arrested, delaying the verdict until Monday. Amnesty questions trial, page 2

Hungary-Israel ties a shock — PLO

KUWAIT (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Budapest was quoted here Saturday as saying an agreement between Hungary and Israel to upgrade relations is a shock to Arabs. PLO representative Hikmat Abu Zaid, in an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaa, called on Arab states to reappraise their relations world-wide in light of the Israel-Hungary rapprochement. Mr. Abu Zaid said that he had information that the World Jewish Council had promised the Hungarian government assistance to help it resolve an economic crisis in return for the Sept. 14 agreement signed in Geneva under which Budapest would upgrade its ties with Israel.

S. Africa sees Israeli 'sanctions' as mild

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A pro-government newspaper said Saturday that Israel had been forced by American pressure to impose sanctions on South Africa and had chosen "relatively mild" measures. The government, which has nurtured military and economic ties with Israel, has not commented publicly on the sanctions package adopted Wednesday by Israel's coalition cabinet.

U.N. chief pursues talks with Iran despite U.S. view of his mission as a failure

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met for 30 minutes on Saturday to discuss efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

"We have had very positive talks with the secretary general," Mr. Velayati told reporters afterwards. He declined to answer questions.

Iran's U.N. delegate Said Rajae Khorassani described the meeting as a courtesy visit.

The meeting was the first between Mr. Perez de Cuellar and either side in the Gulf war since he returned on Wednesday from an abortive peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad.

In a report to the Security Council, which has called for an immediate ceasefire, Mr. Perez de Cuellar indicated wide differences between Iran and Iraq on terms for a halt to the seven-year-old conflict.

He said Iran was prepared to accept an "undeclared cessation of hostilities" if an impartial inquiry were mounted to determine responsibility for the war.

But the Iraqis rejected anything short of a declared, unconditional halt to the fighting, he said. (See full text of report on page 4).

Mr. Khorassani said Iranian President Ali Khamenei was due in New York on Monday to attend the U.N. General Assembly session. He is due to address the 159-nation body on Tuesday. In Washington on Friday, the State Department termed the outcome of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's talks with the Iranians a failure and called on Mr. Khamenei to declare Iran's acceptance of an unconditional ceasefire when he addresses the General Assembly.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters at a news briefing that after reviewing the secretary general's reports of his mission, along with available statements by senior Iranian and Iraqi officials and the latest developments in the conflict, U.S. officials have concluded that Iran "has neither indicated its clear acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, nor does it appear ready to implement the resolution without conditions."

"Furthermore," the spokesman said, "we see no evidence that what the secretary general was told in Tehran and Baghdad will result in an agreement by both governments to stop the war, withdraw to international boundaries and begin negotiations for a just settlement."

"Instead," Redman pointed out, "the war goes on, with a serious threat continuing to the free states in the region and the freedom of navigation by neutral shipping. Under these circumstances," he said, "the United States calls upon President Khamenei in his upcoming U.N. General Assembly address to state unequivocally and clearly his country's official unconditional acceptance and willingness to implement at once Security Council Resolution 598 in all of its parts without conditions."

Redman added that without such a statement from the Iranian president, "the United States sees no responsible alternative but for the U.N. Security Council to redouble its efforts to ensure that both governments are prepared to implement" the resolution immediately.

Otherwise, the spokesman stressed, there is no choice but to move rapidly to enforcement measures, as foreseen in the resolution.

The United States has been urging an arms embargo if Iran does not heed the Security Council's ceasefire demand, but some other members of the council want to allow more time for negotiations with the two sides.

A top Iranian Foreign Ministry official meanwhile dismissed rumours of a possible ceasefire in the war with Iraq, the national news agency IRNA said Saturday.

"There is no common outlook between Iran and the Iraqi regime and no room for a negotiated peace," IRNA quoted Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying.

IRNA quoted Mr. Besharati as making his comment at a Tehran meeting on Thursday which called for an Islamic revolution in Iraq.

Clovis Maksoud, U.N. representative of the Arab League, said here on Friday that there were "sufficient incentives for both parties to acquiesce to a rapid implementation of Security Council Resolution 598."

Iraq rejects plea to halt Gulf attacks and continues air raids

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq turned down a Japanese plea on Saturday to end attacks on Gulf shipping and also sent its planes on their first raid close to Tehran in months.

Shipping sources in the area confirmed a hit on the Cypriot supertanker Actinia as Iraqi leaders told Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari that attacks on Iranian tankers were to defend Baghdad's rights.

Mr. Kuranari, on a one-day visit to Baghdad to see whether Japan could further peace in the area, had talks with President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Gulf shippers braced for attacks from Iran in retaliation for the renewed Iraqi onslaught. But it has so far failed to materialise, leading diplomats to suggest Tehran hoped to highlight Baghdad as the aggressor.

Iraq has launched a series of raids against Iranian oil installations and reported hitting three vessels since Wednesday following a brief lull while U.N. chief

Javier Perez de Cuellar was on an apparently abortive peace mission in the area.

"It's unbelievably quiet," one shipping source said. "Normally there would have been an Iranian response ... by now."

Iraq accused Iran Saturday of shelling without letup seven Iraqi cities and towns, killing 12 civilians, amid the renewed Iraqi air raids on oil installations in the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency reported coordinated raids by two squadrons of Iraqi warplanes against oil-pumping stations at Zanah and Razan, western Iran at midday Saturday.

Tehran Radio confirmed the attacks and said they caused some damage and injured several people.

An earlier Iraqi communiqué said raiders ranged 1,100 kilometres to the south end of the Gulf to strike at Iran's Lavan Island oil terminal in the Strait of Hormuz, and also hit an unidentified "large maritime target."

meaning a ship, off the Iran coast.

Gulf-based marine salvage executives said an Iraqi missile hit the 238,900-tonne Cypriot-flag supertanker Actinia on the starboard side Friday night.

The 1,053-foot Actinia, formerly called Gibraltar, apparently was sailing empty to the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island, they said. Kharg, a frequent target of Iraqi aircraft, has been hit at least twice in the last few days, according to Iraq.

Baghdad Radio broke into normal broadcasting to report that long-range Iranian artillery had hit residential areas in seven border cities and towns, killing at least 12 civilians and injuring more than 30.

It said the bombardment began with shelling of the port city of Basra on Friday, and "continued without letup" through Saturday against the towns of Sulaymaniyah, Khanagah, Badra, Sirwan, Jawahneh and Khormal.

U.S. fighter crashes in Arabian Sea

HONOLULU (Agencies) — A U.S. fighter-bomber has crashed on a training flight in the northern Arabian Sea and its four-man crew is missing, a spokesman from the U.S. Pacific command said on Saturday.

Captain Dan Trout said the A-6E apparently crashed at sea on Friday while it was returning from a routine night training mission to the aircraft carrier USS Ranger.

He said an S-3 viking aircraft saw a flash about 25 kilometres north of the Ranger.

Two helicopters from the Seventh Fleet immediately began searching in the area, several hundred kilometres south-east of the Strait of Hormuz, he said.

It was the second American aircraft lost in the region since the United States began escorting convoys of Kuwaiti tankers.

U.S. acted 'unilaterally' to arrest RJ hijack suspect

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department has said the U.S. acted "unilaterally" to apprehend a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner in Beirut.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman was asked if Jordan or Israel assisted the United States in the Sept. 13 arrest of Fawaz Younis, a Lebanese. As noted in a Justice Department briefing on Sept. 17, Redman said, "the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) made it very clear that this was United States' unilateral action."

The spokesman was asked which U.S. departments or agencies participated in the operation. Redman said it was strictly an FBI operation. "Of course, we are the lead agency on international counter-terrorism policy, so we were naturally involved, but in terms of the operational aspects, that was the FBI," he said.

Younis was arrested in the Mediterranean Sea and brought to Washington for his arraignment Sept. 17. He is charged with hostage-taking, conspiracy and destruction of an aircraft.

Redman was asked if the United States anticipated any further hostage-taking or kidnapping or other violence in retaliation for its action against Younis. "The fact is," he said, "that if we are going to enforce our counter-terrorism policy, if we are going to enforce our laws, then we have to stand up and enforce them, it is a simple as that."

Asked if the United States might be in a position to trade Younis for U.S. hostages being held in Lebanon, Redman replied, "We don't deal with kidnappers or terrorists."

Younis is a member of the Shi'ite Amal militia led by Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri.

King and Queen in Lausanne on private visit

BERN (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor ended a three-day state visit to Switzerland on Saturday and left Bern for Lausanne on a private visit expected to last several days.

Upon their departure from the Swiss capital, the King and Queen were accorded an official farewell ceremony in which President Pierre Aubert and Mrs. Aubert and senior Swiss officials took part.

The King and Queen were accompanied upon their departure by the Jordanian delegation which included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordan's Ambassador to Switzerland Adnan Talhouqi.

On Friday evening the King and Queen hosted a reception in honour of the Swiss president and Mrs. Aubert.

Earlier Friday, the King and Queen were accompanied by the president and Mrs. Aubert to a site near the city of Lucerne where the Swiss Federation was proclaimed some 700 years ago.

At the site, a traditional ceremony was held by Swiss national troops and the King and Queen later signed a special register.

During his visit, King Hussein held talks with cabinet members including President and Foreign Minister Aubert, who reiterated Switzerland's readiness to host an eventual Middle East peace conference. The two sides also discussed bilateral economic and political relations.

It was the King's first official visit to Switzerland.

During his meeting with Mr. Aubert, the King again stressed the urgent need for an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Superpowers enter new era of detente, page 4

Japanese foreign minister holds talks in Amman today

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari today begins talks with Jordanian officials on developments in the Gulf war, the Mideast situation and economic cooperation between Jordan and Japan.

Mr. Kuranari, who was expected here from Baghdad early Sunday amid increasing Japanese diplomatic involvement in the Gulf, is expected to brief Jordanian leaders on his talks with Iraqi leaders and Japanese efforts to protect commercial shipping in the Gulf.

The foreign minister, who visited Iran in June on a similar mission, is also scheduled to meet Iranian President Ali Khamenei during the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

During his two-day stay, Mr. Kuranari is scheduled to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin and Finance Minister Hanna Odeh will also hold talks with him.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama said Mr. Kuranari would discuss the developments in the Gulf, the Middle East problem, bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the Japanese ambassador said his country fully backed United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf. But he refused to say whether Japan would go along with a U.S.-led proposal to impose an arms embargo on Iran if it did not accept the U.N. resolution.

Mr. Nakayama expressed "concern over Japanese tankers subjected to attack in the Gulf." One Japanese tanker sustained a minor damage last week but it was able to continue navigation. The ambassador said Japan was trying to create a suitable environment for the resolution of the Gulf conflict.

Mr. Nakayama said Japan deplored the Gulf conflict and that Tokyo's diplomatic relations with both Iran and Iraq qualified it to play a role in reaching a settlement to the seven-year-old war.

Asked whether the visit by the foreign minister to Iraq and earlier to Iran signified a more active Japanese diplomatic involvement in the Gulf area, the ambassador said: "We try to keep some distance between us and the two parties. We want to do what we can to end the conflict."

Japan is more dependent than any other country on oil supplies from the Gulf, but unlike other countries, it has no military power in the Gulf to protect Japanese shipping by direct means.

Mr. Kuranari is accompanied on his visit to Jordan by his chief advisor, Mr. T. Onda, director general of the Middle East and Africa bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

On the economic level, Mr. Nakayama said that although the trade balance between Japan and Jordan was heavily tilted in favour of Japan, Tokyo was making up for the difference through grants, financial and technical assistance to the Kingdom.

Reagan says he expects to sign INF treaty at autumn summit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said on Saturday he expects to sign a "truly historic treaty" scrapping medium range missiles at a summit later this year with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The United States and the Soviet Union have now agreed in principle to completing a truly historic treaty that will eliminate an entire class of U.S. and Soviet intermediate range missiles," Mr. Reagan said on his weekly radio talk.

"I expect to sign this treaty later this fall at a summit," Mr. Reagan said.

The proposed treaty was agreed in principle during three days of talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and announced on Friday.

Mr. Reagan noted that the two sides had decided to begin formal negotiations towards halving their strategic nuclear arsenals and to begin formal negotiations on verifying existing nuclear testing treaties.

But he said the United States would not cancel research into the strategic defence initiative (SDI), a project which the Soviet Union opposes. Disagreement over this has stalled progress on strategic arms talks.

"I made it clear to the Soviet foreign minister I will not sacrifice our SDI programme," Mr. Reagan said.

The proposed INF treaty has roused optimism for broader superpower accords ahead but some government officials and analysts have said negotiation of further details will be difficult.

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig said on Saturday he opposed the proposed agreement because it made conventional war more likely and made defence of Europe more heavily dependent on strategic weapons.

Officials on both sides said they hoped the INF accord was only the beginning of improved U.S.-Soviet relations and pledged intensive efforts to negotiate 50 per cent cuts in even deadlier long-range nuclear missiles.

They also agreed to renew talks on nuclear testing.

Mr. Shultz said the accord raised hope that the buildup of nuclear missiles in the world would "crest and begin to come down."

Mr. Shevardnadze said: "This is a beginning. Certainly a beginning we hope has to be and will be followed by a continuation."

Mr. Gorbachev said this week that he believed agreement on a 50 per cent cut in U.S.-Soviet strategic nuclear missiles could be achieved next year.

But officials on both sides said they had made little progress at marathon talks this week on the biggest obstacles to strategic missile cuts, and that negotiations would be tough.

But however difficult the negotiations on cutting long-range nuclear missiles, U.S. and Soviet officials said they were confident the treaty demolishing medium-range missiles could be signed before the end of this year.

Peres: Superpower pact will influence Mideast peace efforts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that future U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements will increase pressure for a settlement of the Middle East conflict.

"When you want to avoid a world conflict, nobody would like to keep small fires in the regional parts... that can become all of a sudden a flame that will endanger world peace," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio.

The Reagan administration on Friday unveiled a U.S.-Soviet "agreement in principle" that would ban intermediate-range missiles. The understanding was reached after three days of negotiations between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"It is a very impressive beginning," said Mr. Peres of the agreement. "If it will go on, it will surely affect the situation in the Middle East."

Denktash insists on U.N. proposal

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said on Saturday he would meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York, but he saw no immediate movement on the problems of divided Cyprus. Mr. Denktash, who will be in New York for the U.N. General Assembly session, told Reuters Greek Cypriots would be unable to take any initiative until after presidential elections next February. He said he would review the Cyprus situation with Mr. Perez de Cuellar "because we are waiting for the Greek Cypriot side to come to the table (March 1986) proposals which the secretary general put on the table and which he says are still on the table..." Greek Cypriots last year rejected U.N. proposals for a power-sharing federal republic with Turkish Cypriots. The Greek Cypriot-run Cyprus government said this week it would press for a full-scale General Assembly debate and seek a resolution calling for an international conference on Cyprus. Mr. Denktash said the Greek Cypriot move would stress the separate existence of the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus. The republic he proclaimed in 1983 is recognised only by Turkey.

Libya ready for dialogue with Chad

ABIDJAN (Agencies) — Libya is ready for dialogue to settle its border war with Chad, a Libyan envoy has told the chairman of a special Organisation of African Unity (OAU) committee on the quarrel.

Chad meanwhile accused Libya of more flights over its territory — a daily pattern since fighting over the Aouzou Strip was stopped eight days ago by an OAU-sponsored truce.

The Libyan promise of dialogue was made by visiting Foreign Affairs Minister Jaddallah Azzouzi Al Talhi to Gabon's President Omar Bongo on Friday and reported from Libreville by state-run Gabonese Radio on Saturday.

"Africa is able to solve its problems by itself through dialogue and the efforts of its sons. Libya is always ready for and disposed to dialogue," Mr. Talhi was quoted as saying.

Mr. Bongo's OAU committee plans to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Zambian capital Lusaka. The antagonists, Chadian President Hissene Habre and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, are both invited, but neither has said whether he will attend.

Radio Gabon said Mr. Talhi also delivered a message from Colonel Qadhafi to Mr. Bongo on Friday, but did not report its contents.

Libya and Chad fought several battles last month over the Aouzou Strip, an almost empty stretch of the Sahara desert which Libya annexed 14 years ago. By the time of last week's truce, Libya had recaptured Aouzou town and was in effective control of the disputed region.

Libyan officials said on Saturday that Chad was responsible for a continued state of war between the two countries, the official news agency JANA said.

"Libya has officially announced that the war between it and Chad has ended," the agency, monitored in Beirut, quoted Foreign Ministry officials as telling foreign envoys.

But they said Chad had rejected Tripoli's peace offer and was determined to continue the war.

"After throwing out the mercenaries from its territory Libya will stand firm on its border and leave Chad for the Chadians," JANA said.

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Arab League Council meets today to discuss relations with Iran

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers meet here Sunday to consider joint action in light of Iran's rejection of U.N. peace efforts in the Gulf war.

In their Aug. 25 meeting, the Arab League foreign ministers gave Iran until Sept. 20 to accept a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf or face a reexamination of the Arab countries' relations with Tehran.

After the Aug. 25 meeting, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi had not ruled out a break in diplomatic relations with Arab countries, if Iran failed to respond to peace efforts.

Arab League sources in Tunis said that the Arab ministers will also discuss the Palestine issue, Israel's infiltration in Asia and Africa, Israeli relations with Spain and Sri Lanka, the U.S. stand

vis-a-vis the U.N. General Assembly resolution of 1975 which considered Zionism as another form of racism and a draft proposal to be discussed by the U.S. Congress on the question of transferring the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The ministers according to the sources will also discuss the condition of Palestinians in the Arab World, the situation at the Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon and the Euro-Arab dialogue.

The ministers were expected to discuss this week's U.S. order closing the Palestine Information Office in Washington, according to the League's U.S. representa-

tive.

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud said on Friday the expulsion order would be added to the foreign ministers' agenda and that Arab ambassadors to the United States had already protested against the State Department action.

He said the League would pursue a two-pronged course, pushing on the diplomatic front and challenging Tuesday's order in court.

"We are going to try to persuade the U.S. government to rescind the order," Mr. Maksoud said. "And we are going to challenge it through the judicial avenues available."

The United States on Tuesday ordered the office closed within 30 days after ruling it served as a mission for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Senate scuttles measure that could limit Gulf operation

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate has scuttled a measure that could have limited the U.S. operation to protect Kuwait tankers in the Gulf by triggering the controversial 1973 War Powers Act.

If invoked, the act could force President Reagan to withdraw within 90 days U.S. forces in the Gulf protecting Kuwaiti vessels against Iranian attack.

The Senate voted 51-40 to shelve an amendment to the 1988 defence bill that would essentially have forced Mr. Reagan to invoke the War Powers Act.

Opponents of the open-ended Gulf operation said they would try again later this autumn.

A suit filed by more than 100 legislators to force Mr. Reagan to invoke the act is pending in federal court.

The act requires a president to submit a report to Congress within 48 hours after U.S. forces are introduced into areas where hostilities exist or are imminent.

Within 60 days of the report, Congress can vote to bring the troops home or continue the operation. If the vote is to withdraw troops, the president has 30 days to do so.

During Friday's debate, Democrats accused Mr. Reagan of failing to consult with Congress before agreeing to put the American flag on 11 Kuwaiti tankers and protect them.

They also said U.S. forces in the Gulf are performing under the threat of imminent hostilities and the War Powers Act should be activated. They cited as proof the Pentagon's recent decision to give extra "combat pay" to forces in the Gulf.

Since the Gulf operation began, no U.S. warships or escorted Kuwaiti vessels have been openly attacked by Iranian forces, despite threats by Tehran.

One Kuwaiti tanker struck a mine thought by Washington to have been planted by Iran on the first U.S.-protected convoy through the Gulf in late July.

Last night the U.S. frigate Stark was attacked by an Iraqi fighter plane. Baghdad said the attack was an accident.

Iran, at war with Iraq for seven years, sees U.S. support for Kuwait — a major backer of Baghdad — as a major American build-up in the Gulf as a serious provocation.

The War Powers Act was enacted after long U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, which was never declared by Congress.

The constitution gives Congress the power to declare war and legislators were attempting to ensure that no president could send troops into conflict without a congressional nod. All presidents since the act was passed have opposed it.

Home bills keep seamen in Gulf despite dangers

BAHRAIN (R) — Renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil targets signal fresh dangers for ordinary Gulf seamen, most of whom would choose not to be there, if they could.

"If we had a choice, we probably wouldn't come, but we have to be here — there's no work for us in England," said tug-boat Captain Tom Shepherd, 29, from Hull in Humberside.

Iraq said its warplanes hit vessels in the Gulf, breaking a brief lull while U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Caceres was on a peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad.

Now Gulf sailors dread Iranian retaliation for the attacks.

"You try to block off thinking about the dangers because you have bills and mortgages to pay," Capt. Shepherd said.

At least 55 people, 18 of them ordinary sailors, have died this year as Iraq seeks to destroy Iran's oil lifeline through the Gulf, and Tehran retaliates against Gulf Arab supporters of Baghdad.

About 80 vessels have been hit,

15 of them in a blitz which began on Aug. 31 when Iraq ended a six-week lull in strikes on Iranian shipping and oil installations.

"Tanker war" has become a misnomer in a maritime conflict which has expanded to include cargo vessels, supply boats and even livestock carriers.

In recent months, a new nightmare has surfaced — mines.

Mines brought the war to the waters of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when one boled the supertanker Texaco Caribbean and another sank the supply boat Anita, killing six seamen.

"When I arrived three years ago, ships were being attacked only at Kharg," (Iran's main northern Gulf oil terminal), said David Pellat of the International Seafarers Society, a Bahrain-based welfare group. "But now, no ship is safe."

"Mines are completely indiscriminate and (Iranian) launches sneak up from the rear and take a ship with missiles or machine gun fire, hitting accommodation quarters first," he added.

"Some seamen cope by adopting a macho stance, but about half are likely to talk about their real feelings. Anger is foremost," Pellat said.

Company policies vary but some merchant seamen are paid double in the Gulf while others earn no extra for the danger.

The U.S. Navy decided last month to give its 20,000 sailors in the region \$110 a month extra combat pay.

Washington has boosted its naval presence in the Gulf mainly to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers now flying the Stars and Stripes.

An Indian seaman earns about \$160 a month and a UAE-based British tugboat captain 10 times that amount. Senior European tanker officers earn around \$3,000 a month.

One source said crews did not see why they should be shot at in a war that is none of their concern. But a slump in seafaring jobs in recent years has not helped their position.

"If a seaman refuses to come, his promotion prospects may be

come dim. The company could put him on standby but after a while, if nothing else came up, he would probably get sacked," the shipping source said.

Indian sailors on the Kuwaiti cargo vessel Jebel Ali demanded extra pay to sail on after Iranian gunboats strafed their ship in the Gulf of Oman on Aug. 31.

They said they had not been told the ship would enter the Gulf when it left the United States. After several days of talks, 24 of the ship's 31-strong crew accepted their employers' offer to fly them home.

Shipowners say seamen's fears are exaggerated. They argue that, with up to 500 ships plying the Gulf each day, the percentage of vessels attacked is tiny and casualties few.

But owners agree with seamen that the risk is there.

"My best friend was killed when the supply vessel Anita hit a mine and sank last month," said British tug Captain Ken Bishop, 52, also of Humberside. "That's when it really hits you."

Extremists raid Coptic library in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (AP) — A group of Muslim extremists raided a Coptic Christian library adjoining a church and destroyed some of its contents before police intervened, security sources said Saturday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the raid occurred shortly after the Friday's noon Muslim prayers. Police arrested eight raiders.

No casualties were reported. The sources said about 15 extremists, after prayers, stormed the library of a Coptic Christian Society housed in a building next to St. George's Church in Assiut,

a provincial capital 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

The raiders tore up books, destroyed tape recordings of hymns and sermons and smashed up some chairs before police arrived, the sources said.

They said police were searching for about seven men who escaped.

Assiut has been a centre of fundamentalist agitation since Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in Cairo on Oct. 6, 1981. A series of attacks by Muslim extremists on police forces and installations in the city two

days after the assassination left about 80 people dead.

Assiut is home to one of Egypt's leading universities, and hundreds of its students have demonstrated sporadically to back demands for immediate and full implementation of Sharia, or Islamic law.

The latest demonstration occurred on Sept. 9 outside a mosque. Ten extremists were arrested then, bringing the total held by police to about 160.

The government maintains that about 50 per cent of Egypt's laws already conform to Sharia.

Amnesty questions Tunisian opposition trial

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International has said it fears that leaders of an Islamic movement in Tunisia will be executed after "a trial riddled with irregularities."

The worldwide human rights organisation called on Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to ensure that leaders of the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) are not executed and that allegations of torture in detention are fully investigated.

"Amnesty said it was concerned that a special state security court sitting in Tunis might hand down death sentences over the weekend and that the movement's president, Rachid Ghannouchi, and other leaders could be executed within days.

The prosecution has demanded the death penalty for all 90 members and alleged members of the banned movement whose trial began on Aug. 27. Forty are being tried in absentia.

Charges against the defendants include causing explosions, incitement to public violence and killing, plotting with Iran to overthrow the government of Tunisia

and belonging to an illegal organisation.

Mr. Ghannouchi, a philosophy teacher, and other leaders have denied any involvement in violence, insisting the movement works democratically for greater Islamisation in Tunisia, Amnesty said.

Six of the defendants have confessed on television that they were involved in the bombing of tourist hotels in Tunisia in August but Amnesty said they have denied belonging to the movement.

Most defendants have said they were tortured. Amnesty said one man arrested in August was reportedly incapable of being questioned when the trial opened because of his physical condition after alleged torture.

Amnesty, whose representative attended part of the trial, also called on Mr. Bourguiba to investigate irregularities during the trial.

It said the appointment of the government's prosecutor general as the court's president, or trial judge, raised concerns about the court's impartiality. The court

president is assisted by two judges and two members of Tunisia's governing party acting as assessors.

Defence lawyers have complained that the court president has severely restricted their rights and at one point the lawyers walked out of the court in protest, Amnesty said.

The human rights group questioned the use in court of confessions alleged to have been obtained "by force" and said the judicial authorities appeared to have ignored allegations of torture and the lack of medical treatment while defendants were held incommunicado.

The main defendants had no contact with lawyers until two days before the trial began, Amnesty said, and it was only then that the prosecution handed the defence an apparently incomplete trial dossier of some 3,000 pages. The defence has claimed it did not include documents later presented as evidence in court.

The trial follows a clampdown on the Islamic Tendency Movement which began early this year.

Israelis give lowest approval rate to government

TEL AVIV (AP) — Only one in three Israelis is satisfied with the performance of Israel's coalition government, the lowest approval rate in two years, a poll indicated Friday.

In addition, the percentage of respondents favouring new elections increased from 36 per cent in May to 41 per cent in August, according to the poll, conducted by the newspaper Davar.

The survey included responses from 1,200 adults questioned between Aug. 11 and Aug. 20. The margin of error was not given.

The respondents were asked to rate the government overall and in specific areas, such as the economy, social services, security and foreign policy.

Thirty per cent of the respondents gave the government a favourable overall rating, compared to 63 per cent in September 1986, the highest approval rate in the past two years.

The government, a coalition of the Labour Party led by Shimon Peres and the right-wing Likud Bloc headed by Yitzhak Shamir, got better marks in specific areas of performance.

Sixty per cent approved of the government's defence policy, compared to 56 per cent two years ago and 72 per cent in September 1986.

Economic policies won an approval rate of 45 per cent, compared to 31 per cent two years ago and 73 per cent in September 1986.

Forty-seven per cent of the respondents were satisfied with Israel's foreign policy, compared to 48 per cent two years ago and 72 per cent in September 1986.

Israeli leaders seek to solve Sabbath dispute

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders have said they will form a committee to help solve the dispute between religious and secular Jerusalem residents over movie screenings on the Jewish Sabbath.

Ultra-orthodox groups, meanwhile, cancelled protests planned for Friday and, for the first time in weeks, no movies were shown

after sundown Friday, the beginning of the Sabbath.

Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek met Friday and decided to form a committee to examine the issue, Israeli Radio said. The report did not say who would sit on the committee.

Shamir, Peres, Hammer and

Kollek also called on Jerusalem residents to refrain from violence and return to the status quo until the committee issues its findings, the radio said.

The term status quo describes compromises forged between religious and secular groups in the 1950s. In Jerusalem, the status quo bans most commercial activities on the Sabbath, but permits cultural events and allows some restaurants to open.

Ethiopia gives autonomy to Eritrea, Tigre

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's parliament, in an apparent attempt to placate rebels, said five areas including the troubled northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre would become autonomous regions under a new constitution.

The other areas to receive special status are Assab on the Red Sea coast and Dire Dawa and the Ogaden in the far east, the parliament said on Friday.

The Ogaden, which has a large ethnic Somali population, was the scene of a 1977-78 war between Ethiopia and Somalia.

The new constitution, which came into force last week and gave legislative power to a newly-

elected parliament, the Shengo, transferred Marxist rule from a military to a civil government.

The constitution is the first the country has had since Emperor Haile Selassie was toppled by military officers 13 years ago.

The parliament, apparently referring to rebels in Eritrea, Tigre and elsewhere, said it was offering peace so that all Ethiopians could benefit from the 1974 revolution.

"We ... extend our peaceful hand from this historic forum ... so that acts of destruction and bloodshed will cease and those who were so far unable to benefit from constructive measures of the revolution (might) take part in

democratic nation-building endeavours," it said.

But Eritrean rebels, fighting for independence since Addis Ababa annexed the former Italian colony in 1962, have already criticised the autonomy provision as too vague.

The Marxist Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), waging a guerrilla war against government troops in the province, is also critical of the new constitution.

A Shengo statement on Friday night said the rest of Ethiopia would be divided into 24 administrative regions. Under the previous system, the country had 14 provinces with equal status.

Evren receives Turkish opposition leader

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — President Kenan Evren, leader of the military government which has banned former politicians from active politics, has received former Premier Bulent Ecevit at the Cankaya Presidential Palace.

After the one-hour meeting, Mr. Ecevit told reporters, "I am happy to see Mr. Evren after so many years and to find him in good health."

Turks voted in a referendum on Sept. 6 to lift the political bans.

Asked how it felt to greet the leader of the 1980 military coup, Mr. Ecevit said, "I am not a person with the tendency to dwell upon the past. I find the present and especially the future more

attractive."

Mr. Ecevit, 62, was the chairman of the chief opposition Republican Peoples Party and his chief rival, Suleyman Demirel, 61, was premier of a minority government when the military took over, citing an economic crisis and widespread political terrorism.

Gen. Evren led the coup as chief of staff, having been appointed the post then-Premier Ecevit in 1978.

After the coup, Social Democrat Ecevit's Republican Peoples Party and Mr. Demirel's centrist Justice Party were closed.

The leaders themselves were banned from leading new political parties or seeking elective

office until 1992 under the 1982 constitution prepared by the military.

Gen. Evren was elected president in the 1982 national referendum on the constitution.

A week after the national referendum in which the bans were lifted, Mr. Ecevit was elected chairman of the Democratic Left Party. It was in the role of head of a party with parliamentary representation that Mr. Ecevit was received by the president.

Gen. Evren is also expected to meet with Mr. Demirel, the prime minister he fired, after Mr. Demirel's likely election as chairman of the True Path Party in a party convention on Sept. 24.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme Review
15:45 Children's programme
17:20 Drama Rama
17:30 Local Agricultural programme
18:20 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:30 Programme review
19:50 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:20 News in Hebrew
22:30 T.V. Magazine (local)
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 T.V. Magazine contd.

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz FM

& partly on 9560 KHz, SW

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
11:00 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Instrumentals
14:30 Jazz Hour
15:00 Science Report
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:30 News in English
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show continued
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show continued
23:00 News Summary
23:57 News Headline
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Music for a

While 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:05 Happy Talk 08:30 The Spinners 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Sex and Society 10:00 World News 10:30 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Sportsworld 10:50 Waveguide 10:50 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Sportsworld 12:00 World News 12:30 British Press Review 12:15 Through My Window 12:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 Three Wishes 13:00 News Summary: Sex and Society 13:15 Classical Record Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:05 News About Britain 14:15 Persona Grata 14:30 Popular Music 15:00 News Summary: Popular Music contd. 15:15 My Music 15:30 Play of the Week: Intimate Exchanges 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Payment as Pledged 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Half-Hour Drama: Persuasion 17:45 Taste of Blood 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Concert Hall 19:00 World News 19:05 Women and the AIDS Crisis 19:15 A Green and Pleasant Land 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:05 Reflections 20:15 Sportsworld 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Payment as Pledged 22:30 News Summary 22:35 Short Story 02:15 Letter from America 02:30 Sex and Society

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 and 15210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 08:20 News 08:30 News 08:40 News 08:50 News 09:00 News 09:10 News 09:20 News 09:30 News 09:40 News 09:50 News 10:00 News 10:10 News 10:20 News 10:30 News 10:40 News 10:50 News 11:00 News 11:10 News 11:20 News 11:30 News 11:40 News 11:50 News 12:00 News 12:10 News 12:20 News 12:30 News 12:40 News 12:50 News 13:00 News 13:10 News 13:20 News 13:30 News 13:40 News 13:50 News 14:00 News 14:10 News 14:20 News 14:30 News 14:40 News 14:50 News 15:00 News 15:10 News 15:20 News 15:30 News 15:40 News 15:50 News 16:00 News 16:10 News 16:20 News 16:30 News 16:40 News 16:50 News 17:00 News 17:10 News 17:20 News 17:30 News 17:40 News 17:50 News 18:00 News 18:10 News 18:20 News 18:30 News 18:40 News 18:50 News 19:00 News 19:10 News 19:20 News 19:30 News 19:40 News 19:50 News 20:00 News 20:10 News 20:20 News 20:30 News 20:40 News 20:50 News 21:00 News 21:10 News 21:20 News 21:30 News 21:40 News 21:50 News 22:00 News 22:10 News 22:20 News 22:30 News 22:40 News 22:50 News 23:00 News 23:10 News 23:20 News 23:30 News 23:40 News 23:50 News 24:00 News 24:10 News 24:20 News 24:30 News 24:40 News 24:50 News 25:00 News 25:10 News 25:20 News 25:30 News 25:40 News 25:50 News 26:00 News 26:10 News 26:20 News 26:30 News 26:40 News 26:50 News 27:00 News 27:10 News 27:20 News 27:30 News 27:40 News 27:50 News 28:00 News 28:10 News 28:20 News 28:30 News 28:40 News 28:50 News 29:00 News 29:10 News 29:20 News 29:30 News 29:40 News 29:50 News 30:00 News 30:10 News 30:20 News 30:30 News 30:40 News 30:50 News 31:00 News 31:10 News 31:20 News 31:30 News 31:40 News 31:50 News 32:00 News 32:10 News 32:20 News 32:30 News 32:40 News 32:50 News 33:00 News 33:10 News 33:20 News 33:30 News 33:40 News 33:50 News 34:00 News 34:10 News 34:20 News 34:30 News 34:40 News 34:50 News 35:00 News 35:10 News 35:20 News 35:30 News 35:40 News 35:50 News 36:00 News 36:10 News 36:20 News 36:30 News 36:40 News 36:50 News 37:00 News 37:10 News 37:20 News 37:30 News 37:40 News 37:50 News 38:00 News 38:10 News 38:20 News 38:30 News 38:40 News 38:50 News 39:00 News 39:10 News 39:20 News 39:30 News 39:40 News 39:50 News 40:00 News 40:10 News 40:20 News 40:30 News 40:40 News 40:50 News 41:00 News 41:10 News 41:20 News 41:30 News 41:40 News 41:50 News 42:00 News 42:10 News 42:20 News 42:30 News 42:40 News 42:50 News 43:00 News 43:10 News 43:20 News 43:30 News 43:40 News 43:50 News 44:00 News 44:10 News 44:20 News 44:30 News 44:40 News 44:50 News 45:00 News 45:10 News 45:20 News 45:30 News 45:40 News 45:50 News 46:00 News 46:10 News 46:20 News 46:30 News 46:40 News 46:50 News 47:00 News 47:10 News 47:20 News 47:30 News 47:40 News 47:50 News 48:00 News 48:10 News 48:20 News 48:30 News 48:40 News 48:50 News 49:00 News 49:10 News 49:20 News 49:30 News 49:40 News 49:50 News 50:00 News 50:10 News 50:20 News 50:30 News 50:40 News 50:50 News 51:00 News 51:10 News 51:20 News 51:30 News 51:40 News 51:50 News 52:00 News 52:10 News 52:20 News 52:30 News 52:40 News 52:50 News 53

Oldest Jordanian dies

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although there are no official records to prove it, Sheikh Thaher Thayab Al Fayez passed away at the age of 115 on Friday, an age which classifies him as one of the oldest men in the world.

According to his son, Dr. Faris Thaher Thayab Al Fayez, although there were no official registrations of births at that time, "people who knew my father recorded that he was present when the Hijazi railroad was being built, which was at the beginning of this century, and that he was a distinguished fighter during the battles which occurred around that time as well."

Sheikh Thaher was especially known for the part he played against the forces of the Wahabiyen from Saudi Arabia in 1924 when they invaded the Kingdom. "He was famous for his courage, and later voiced his dislike for the British and Glubb Pasha, as he was a supporter of national causes and freedom," said Dr. Faris who works at the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

Although Sheikh Thaher was never against the Hashemite family and often accompanied King Abdullah, he was always considered by the government as part of the opposition. "At first he joined the National Party (opposition) rather than the Independence Party (government). Outspoken in his views, my father's voice was one of truth and often pointed out what was not considered to be good for the overall benefit of the Kingdom," said Dr. Faris, adding that on several issues in local politics Sheikh Thaher was referred to by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and His Royal Highness

Prince Mohammad.

In his tribe, Bani Sakhr, Sheikh Thaher was considered a leader and served as an Islamic judge for the tribe. His decisions were recognised and accepted by the government, said Dr. Faris. Despite his age, Sheikh Thaher was enjoying good health and had excellent eyesight, Dr. Faris said. "It was very strange that he died of a heart attack since only one year ago when Sheikh Thaher entered the hospital for a medical checkup, all the results showed that there was absolutely nothing wrong with him," he continued, "then one year later, he was sitting drinking his argeleh and suddenly he choked and died."

His diet consisted of mainly milk and rice, fruit, cake and local bread, avoiding meat some 20 years before he died. Throughout his life he stayed away from eggs and vegetables especially tomatoes. "He was considered a healthy man and often exercised by walking long distances," said his son. Although he weighed 70-75 kilograms at the age of 115, Sheikh Thaher weighed 120 kilograms in his younger days and was said to have been able to eat a whole sheep by himself. During those days his favourite form of exercise was camel and horse riding and walking. During his lifetime, Sheikh Thaher married 17 wives, five of which bore him 17 children. He married his first wife, his senior by three years, at the young age of 14, and his last wife when he was 75 years old. Sheikh Thaher's seventeenth wife was between the age of 25 to 30 when she married him, and she bore him ten children. His oldest child is now 95 years old and still alive, while his youngest is 29 years old.

When Sheikh Thaher passed away he was married to two of his wives.

Jordan to buy 200,000 tonnes of wheat from Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will purchase 200,000 tonnes of wheat from Saudi Arabia and the shipments will start arriving here by trucks as of the beginning of the coming month, according to Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, under secretary of the ministry of supply.

Mr. Hawamdeh was speaking upon returning here Saturday from Riyadh where he held talks with Saudi officials; particularly with Sheikh Saleh Al Suleiman, director of the Grain Silos Corporation, on Jordan's needs of wheat.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that Saudi Arabia had agreed earlier to sell Jordan 140,000 tonnes of wheat but the deal was not carried

through in full. Starting next year, the remaining shipments of the earlier deal will be shipped to Aqaba from the Saudi port of Jeddah, Mr. Hawamdeh said.

Mr. Hawamdeh had accompanied Sheikh Saleh on a visit to Aqaba for inspecting grain silos owned by the Ministry of Supply and for viewing the port facilities. The under secretary also took part in the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian committee to discuss bolstering bilateral trade and economic relations.

Last June, the Ministry of Agriculture said it expected local production of cereals to reach only 136,000 tonnes this year, less than the amount expected by

ministry experts at the beginning of the harvest season. The ministry said that only 100,000 tonnes of wheat expected to be produced by local farmers were far short of the domestic needs.

On his way back home, Mr. Hawamdeh met with Sheikh Fahd Ibn Sultan, governor of the northern Saudi region of Tabouk, who extended an invitation to Jordan's Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Minister of Supply Rajai Muasher to visit his region and acquaint themselves with agricultural projects there.

Mr. Hawamdeh was accompanied during the visit to Saudi Arabia by Mr. Suleiman Al Bilbeisi, director of trade at the Ministry of Supply.

Jordan to host energy conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Energy experts from around the world will take part in a conference that will be held in Amman next February to review electric power generation, according to Dr. Hisham Al Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources.

Dr. Khatib said the decision to hold the conference here came during a World Energy Conference meeting held in Seoul, South Korea, which he attended along with representatives from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

While attending the conference, Dr. Khatib held talks with South Korean officials and energy experts during an official visit to South Korea. The talks covered Jordanian-South Korean cooperation in energy-related fields. The talks, the minister said, resulted in initiating a memoran-

dum on bilateral cooperation in electricity-generation affairs.

He said that a South Korean delegation will visit Jordan soon to follow up talks on bilateral cooperation in energy and mineral resources and electricity. Dr. Khatib toured a number of technological and scientific institutions in South Korea and held meetings with their directors.

In a related development, JEA on Saturday announced that it is organising a seminar on the design and the work of the thermal power station in Aqaba. The seminar, the announcement said, entails lectures and visits to the thermal power station in the port city and discussion on the benefits of such project.

At the same time, the announcement said, JEA is currently studying bids for the construction of the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Sta-

tion. The second phase, it said, entails setting up a steam-powered generating units which will have an ultimate capacity of 260 megawatts.

The announcement said that JEA will soon award contracts to local firms to embark on the project.

A statistical bulletin issued by the Department of Statistics Saturday said that Jordan imported 2,966-million tonnes of oil in crude and refined form for its needs in the past year. This is up from 2,891 million tonnes in 1985.

Jordan toughens drive against foreign labour

AMMAN — The Jordanian authorities are stepping up measures to stem violations of labour regulations concerning the employment of non-Jordanian workers and to control the local labour market.

Minister of Labour and Social Development on Saturday announced that intensive search campaigns will be carried out in order to ensure that ministry regulations are being abided by at all private and public organisations and companies. He said that teams from the Ministry of Labour and employment offices will be touring various businesses and drastic action will be taken against violators of Jordanian laws.

Priority should be given to Jordanians in all types of work, the minister said.

The decision was taken following an enlarged meeting the minister held with Mr. Sami Hassan Mansour, president of the Central Council of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions and Mr. Samir Qarden, the federation's secretary general.

The minister said employers found to be violating the regulations will be fined and the non-Jordanian workers found without permit will be ordered to leave the country.

At the meeting, a decision was taken for adding more job cate-

gories to a "Jordanians only" list, but no details were disclosed. The Ministry of Labour said last July that non-Jordanians will no longer be allowed to work as salesmen and saleswomen in stores, or as petrol station or car wash attendants.

The ministry earlier said that clerical workers, teachers, and accountants were among the jobs that should be taken only by Jordanians.

By last March, there were 100,000 non-Jordanian workers in the Kingdom of whom 21,000 were non-Arabs, according to Ministry of Labour sources.

In contrast, the Kingdom has nearly 40,000 jobless people forming nearly eight per cent of the total work force according to the minister of labour in a statement he made to the third Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman last July.

According to Mr. Mansour, the Ministry of Labour's measures would stem the employment of non-Jordanians and open the way for jobless people to find work and so reduce Jordan's problem of unemployment.

He said that a number of organisations have been laying off workers under the pretext of economic recession and employing non-Jordanian workers because they are a source of cheap labour. The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions is still grappling with a number of cases, involving mass lay-offs of workers, labour disputes and the reduction of wages, Mr. Mansour noted.

According to Mr. Qarden, the federation is observing close cooperation with the Ministry of Labour in dealing with the unemployment issue and the problem of employing non-Jordanian workers in the country.

On Thursday, the minister of labour stated that his ministry was doing all it can to find employment for Jordanian job-seekers, especially to community college and school graduates who form nearly 75 per cent of the unemployed people in Jordan.

Meetings have been going on to discuss the problem. The most recent was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

At that meeting, decisions were taken for providing vocational training for school graduates to enable them to replace foreign workers in different businesses. — Petra

Paper blames Arab League Charter for Arab disunity

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The "Arab Order," as was expressed in the institutional and political framework of the Arab League, responded to Arab national aspirations for unity.

But the Arab League Charter, which was heavily influenced by the dominant Western powers and reflected the weakness of Arab leadership, enhanced and legitimised the division of the Arab World into separate and independent nation-states.

These were the two main conclusions made by an important paper prepared by four University of Jordan professors and presented to the First Arab Strategic Conference which ended its work here last week.

The main argument of the paper was that the Arab League's formation in 1945 and its charter represented a reconciliatory formula between the determination of the Western powers, especially Britain and France, to maintain their hegemony in the region and the mounting pressure of the continuous, albeit mostly simultaneous, Arab nationalist uprisings for independence and unity.

Yet and due to a number of factors the popular pressures were enough only to compel Britain and France to seriously consider Arab aspirations for a political framework to regulate relations of an "Arab Order" but failed to force the colonial forces to accumb to demands for Arab unity which could damage the interests of both powers as determined in the post-World War I treaties.

These factors, according to the paper, included the absence of a strong, unified and effective Arab leadership, the lack of a coherent, comprehensive pan-Arab nationalist ideology and movement and the prevalence of "regional" movements with pan-Arab inclinations. Other equally important factors included the failure of parliamentary and constitutional experiences in the different "Arab regions" which were developing into separate nation-states and, finally, the strong influence of the Western powers — practised not only through their military presence, but also through the social and political basis they succeeded in forming in each region.

This historical perspective of the factors, which shaped the formation of the Arab League was contained in a comprehensive research which covered the period from the beginning of the 19th century up to 1945. The research was divided into two parts.

The first, prepared by the Iraqi-born prominent historian, Professor Abdul Aziz Al Douri, and Dr. Hussein Touka, both from the University of Jordan, covered the period between the beginning of the 19th century until 1916.

This part traced the first expressions of Arab nationalism, both as a reflection of resentment of the Ottoman rule and as a search for an independent and national identity. It also reviewed the factors, particularly the modernisation drive launched by the Ottoman rulers and beginning of the Western political, economic

and military invasion of the area, influencing the still infant but developing modern Arab national thinking and idea of forming "an Arab Order."

The Western-influenced modernisation campaign launched by the Ottoman rulers in the beginning of the 19th century reflected the rulers' fear of and willingness to accommodate the Western powers which by then did not hide their ambitions in the area.

However, the modernisation campaign, which covered almost all areas including laws, land reforms, education and culture, had led to complex and contradictory consequences which eventually made important structural changes in the ailing Ottoman empire.

The modernisation drive led to the emergence of the following serious results, and actually, traditions, within the empire. The interaction of these changes, had been relevant to the formation of the modern "Arab Order." — New social strata, including intelligentsia and landowners who were seeking a bigger role in the government. But the old political divisions and relations fell short of satisfying their expectations. These strata soon sought reforms and took an active and sometimes a leading part in the emerging Arab movements for an independent national identity.

The modernisation led to the expansion of the empire's expenditure, with evident encouragement from the Western powers, and by the end of the 19th century the Ottomans were in great debt to the Western countries. Another important result of this "Western economic penetration" was the emergence of a new class of agents to market Western products. This class was composed mainly of foreigners but it had its local dependents, and they constituted an important social basis for the coming rule of the Western colonialist powers.

Modernisation, particularly exposure to Western thinking and education, brought fundamental changes in the approach of Arab and Islamic intellectuals. For a while, the Ottoman rule was initially accepted, despite popular resentment of its oppression, as a legitimate Islamic framework confronting the foreign Christian powers. But by the middle and end of the 19th century, new ideas influenced by the European concepts of nationalism emerged among Muslim thinkers who sought independence from the Ottoman empire and the renaissance of the Arabic language, Arab culture and Arab identity.

This new trend was expressed in Islamic movements which were spearheaded by the Al Wahabi movement and uprising in the semi-Arab peninsula, and the Al Sanosi and Edrissi movements in Morocco and Libya. The new Arab-Islamic thought, which reconciled between modern political ideas and the fundamentals of Islam, was strongly based on the belief that its goal could only be achieved by strengthening the Arab identity and culture and reflected a nostalgia for the glory of the independent Arab-Islamic empire.

Forms of this thought were

expressed also by a number of Egyptian Islamic thinkers who varied in their progressiveness and clarity in advocating reforms, independence and unity.

But the expression of Arab national aspirations in formulating some form of "an Arab Order" made its strongest manifestations in the Great Arab Revolt led by Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali of Hijaz (the great grandfather of King Hussein) in 1916.

Sherif Hussein, who sharply turned against the Ottomans by 1911, was seeking the formation of an independent Arab state including Lebanon, Palestine, Transjordan, Syria, Iraq and the semi-Arab peninsula.

Sherif Hussein's ideas, albeit uncrystallised, were outlined in details in his famous exchanges of letters with Lord McMahon.

The Hijazi leader was trying to get British approval of a unified Arab identity in return for Arab alliance with the British and the French against the Ottomans who joined Germany in World War I. But the expectations of Sherif Hussein and other Arabs were crushed when Britain did not honour its word and instead divided the Levant and the Gulf between itself and France.

Arab disappointment was further aggravated by the British support for the international Zionist movement's goal of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine.

The second part of the research starts with a review of Arab reactions to the perceived "betrayal" by Britain. The Arabs, who believed in strict codes of honour to regulate human relations, trusted the British "word." This part of the research, done by the dean of the department of literature at the University of Jordan, Professor Abdul Karim Al Gharaibeh, and Dr. Abdul Mahdi Al Saudi, traces the evolution of the idea of the "Arab Order," the "regional patriotic and independent movements," the roots of the modern pan-Arab nationalist movement, and the interaction of all these with the Western domination, which had finally produced the Arab League in 1945.

By the end of World War I, the stage was set for the Western powers, mainly Britain, France, Spain, Italy and Portugal, to take full control of the Arab World, i.e. the divided inheritance of the Ottoman empire.

The division of the Arab World among various colonial powers, which followed different styles and policies, the original split in the national Arab movement into "regional independent movements" which struggled for establishing of individual nation states and the strong influence of tribalism which still ruled inter-Arab relations were only enhanced as the colonial powers started establishing their hegemony in the region.

Furthermore, the colonial powers succeeded not only in establishing their own brand of political and social bases but also in imposing treaties on individual Arab "regions" that confined Arab rulers' "official" relations to those with other foreign powers.

The hegemony and by far military superiority of the colonial powers coupled with the power

that they exerted through their lackies in Arab leadership worked to dismantle and crush Arab nationalist uprising. But perhaps the most striking feature of that period was the development of over 100 "patriotic, regional" parties and groups which sought the independence of individual regions. This development was parallel to the development of the Zionist movement as a unified and international "expression of Jewish nationalism."

But, despite all these factors of division and weakness, the absence of developed and sophisticated political and democratic institutions, and the repeated dismantling by the rulers and the colonialists of Arab parliaments and suspension of constitutions, Arab national uprising and revolutions did not cease and finally Britain had to consider granting independence to the individual regions.

According to the paper, Britain had to make this concession, which materialised through a number of separate independent agreements and the formation of the Arab League, to "ensure the continuation of its influence and to maintain its interests in the region."

But the formation of the Arab League was also a conclusion of a long series of deliberations among representatives of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia and Palestinian personalities.

The negotiations were, to a great part, according to the paper, a result of popular pressures for Arab unity, which reached their peak during the 1936 Palestinian revolution. But as the paper concluded, rather cynically, the aim of Arab diplomats and experts was to form "...a regional organisation on the basis of coordination and cooperation and a commitment to a pan-Arab nationalist ideology."

... And this regional organisation was actually named the "Arab League" simply to make it acceptable to the Arab public opinion which was thirsty for Arab unity.... the paper says.

This reality was translated in the League's charter, which stressed, in its first article, the sovereignty and independence of individual Arab states, but did not include any kind of reference to Arab unity as an objective.

In his excellent half-an-hour presentation both parts of the paper Dr. Douri stressed that "the Arab League Charter was a reflection of reality... and it was not a substitute to the idea of Arab unity... in fact it enhanced and approved the then prevailing divisions."

Dr. Douri also emphasised "the harmony between Islam and Arab nationalism and their historical links."

Dr. Douri's presentation, comments and the paper itself sparked a serious debate over the Arab League's Charter and the Arab Order's sources of legitimacy during the three-day sessions of the First Arab Strategic Conference.

Intellectuals and politicians attending the conference were from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, and Libya.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decree approves Shoubaki's appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued approving the Cabinet decision to appoint Mr. Mohammad Hussein Al Shoubaki as governor at the Interior Ministry. Prior to this post Mr. Shoubaki, a retired lieutenant general, served as an advisor at the Crown Prince office.

2 sentenced for drugs, embezzlement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Military Court has sentenced Salem Attallah Mkhafat to five years imprisonment and fined him JD 500 for the acquisition of drugs. The court also sentenced Suleiman Obeid Ali Salman to two years imprisonment and fined him JD 1,000 for embezzling public funds. The general military governor endorsed the sentences.

Haj Hassan to lead delegation to Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of Arab social development ministers scheduled to be held in Tunis on October 13. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan will head Jordan's delegation to the three-day meetings.

Jordan to attend telecommunication meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications will take part in the international telecommunications conference which is going to be held in Geneva during October. Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein and Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail will attend the four-day conference.

Kanaan leaves for Madrid to attend WTO meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Taber Kanaan left Amman Saturday for Madrid at the head of an official delegation to take part in the general assembly meeting of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) due to open on Sept. 22. The general assembly, which will be attended by delegates from 85 nations, will discuss means of promoting world tourism, and WTO's programmes for the coming two years among other tourism related issues. Tourism Authority Director Nassi Attallah is among the members of the Jordanian delegation to attend the 11-day meeting. WTO, which was established in 1974, aims at improving and facilitating travel among member countries and to study means of overcoming problems that impede tourism.

GNP grows by 3.7% in 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's gross national product (GNP) registered an increase of 3.7 per cent during 1986 over the 1985 figure. The Kingdom's GNP during 1986 reached JD 1,917 million figure. The Kingdom's GNP during 1985 reached JD 1,849 million figure. The Kingdom's domestic national product reached JD 1,614 million in 1986 up from JD 1,573 million in 1985 which is also an increase of 2.6 per cent.

Bulgaria offers to help in agricultural projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgaria's ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Yancho Demirev, Saturday expressed his country's readiness to help the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan to implement agricultural projects, especially in planting fruit trees. The ambassador made the offer to the ministry's under secretary, Dr. Saleh Al Lawzi, at a meeting in which both sides reviewed cooperation between Bulgaria and Jordan. Dr. Lawzi told the ambassador that his ministry was looking forward to benefiting from Bulgaria's experience in setting up nurseries that can produce fruit-tree saplings. Mr. Demirev said his country welcomes all steps leading towards bolstering bilateral cooperation.

Italian press team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An Italian press delegation arrived here Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Italian Travel Agents Society and in cooperation with the Tourism Authority and a number of tourism institutions in the country. The delegation comprise 16 journalists representing leading Italian newspapers and magazines. The visit is within the framework of tourist cooperation between Jordan and Italy and the tourist promotion programme agreed upon here during a visit by the Italian Travel Agents Society delegation two months ago.

Oil adulterator apprehended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply announced Saturday that it has apprehended a man considered to be the leader of an operation for peddling adulterated oil in the local markets.

A statement by the ministry said that the man used to import vegetable oil and mix it with green colour additives before selling it as olive oil which is in constant demand by the public. The oil was offered for sale through street vendors, the statement added.

The man has admitted to his actions and the authorities have seized equipment and materials which have been used in the process of mixing oil and the man will be referred to court for trial, the statement said.

The statement, which did not reveal the identity of the man, said the Ministry of Supply voiced its appreciation and gratitude to citizens whose help led to the arrest and warned members of the public and restaurants and food shops to beware of manipulators and to report suspected vendors to the Ministry of Supply and police.

Al Hadid, Al Ghazali discuss Jordan's exhibition in Muscat

MUSCAT (J.T.) — Jordan's ambassador to Oman, Mr. Nayef Al Hadid, Saturday discussed with Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Saleh Al Ghazali the preparations for organising an exhibition of Jordanian products in Muscat.

The minister gave his approval to the arrangements for the exhibition which will be held towards the end of December 1987, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordanian-Egyptian talks on joint company start

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Egyptian teams opened a meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss arrangements for putting a newly established joint holding company for investment and development into operation.

The holding company was agreed on during talks between the two sides held in Amman last month during a visit to Jordan by Egyptian Minister of Planning Kamal Jazouiri.

Minutes signed by the two sides provide for the establishment of the company with an initial \$50 million capital to be shared equally by Egypt and Jordan. The minutes call on both sides to speed up payment to their respective shares in the company's capital and the commencement of the company's operations which will include a lean meat production project in Jordan and a fishing company in Egypt.

The talks which started in Amman Saturday were co-chaired by Mr. Midhat Abdul Aziz, under secretary of the ministry of planning and international cooperation in Egypt and Dr. Fahd Al Azab, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation in Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. In accordance with the minutes which were signed by Dr. Jazouiri in Amman last month, the

holding company is expected to form subsidiary companies to contribute to economic and social development in both countries.

The work of the holding company "will not doubt pave the way for economic integration between Jordan and Egypt and leave the door open for other Arab countries to join in," according to a statement by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Dr. Azab will become chairman of the company's board of directors and Mr. Munsil Al Halawani, from Egypt will act as its deputy, according to the minutes.

Original agreement on the establishment of the holding company took place through the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which met in Amman last April under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki. Under the agreement reached by the two sides the two countries will set up four firms for fisheries, fodder, lean meat, agricultural seeds and a tourism investment company. The higher committee in its April meeting also reached agreement on bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, industry, planning, agriculture, mining, oil, electricity services, culture, educational and telecommunications.

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Step towards safer world

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are to be congratulated on their agreement to meet in Washington later this year to append their signatures to an intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty, designed to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from their nuclear arsenals worldwide. No doubt, the accord should be viewed as a political triumph for Mr. Reagan, who at the end of his administration, has been facing a severe political crisis as a result of the Iran-contra arms scandal. The treaty should also be seen as an achievement for Mr. Gorbachev, who had been putting off a summit with Mr. Reagan until reaching a worthwhile treaty that would considerably enhance European security and reduce East-West tensions.

The INF treaty is a very unique one in the sense that it is the first arms control accord that completely eliminates a particular category of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of the superpowers. The treaty deals a heavy blow to the cold war warriors on either side of the great divide. Some NATO strategists and politicians in particular are viewing the accord as one that could weaken the NATO strategy of flexible response. Besides, the U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles symbolised American commitment to defend Europe in case of a conflict with the East bloc countries. Therefore, the Europeans view the dismantling of these weapons with some sense of apprehension about U.S. intentions. However, the NATO partners have gone along with Mr. Reagan to make the INF negotiations a grand success.

The INF treaty will historically remain an important milestone in East-West relations. It forebodes the beginning of an era that may free the world from the tyranny of nuclear weapons. After all, the treaty covers just about three per cent of superpower nuclear arsenals. When it is known that the question of eliminating thousands of intercontinental ballistic missiles, potentially capable of annihilating the world several times over, has never been seriously addressed, the conclusion of an INF treaty is something akin to the story of the mountain, giving birth to a little mouse.

Mr. Gorbachev has said that the Soviets have a programme that is designed to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the turn of the century. For him, therefore, the INF treaty constitutes the first step towards that goal. He has said recently that it is possible to have a 50 per cent cut in superpower nuclear arsenals in the coming year if the arms negotiations move forward. He has also made suggestions that 95 per cent of nuclear weapons on either side could be reduced without jeopardising the security of anyone. As for Mr. Reagan, a 50 per cent cut in intercontinental missiles is an acceptable proposal in principle and perhaps he would be ready to start negotiations next year. His objective of making the nuclear weapons obsolete, in the context of overall capacities of the superpowers, is a commendable one. However, it is difficult to predict how far the U.S. president's determination to deploy his strategic defence initiative for a peace-based defensive system or "Star Wars" programme could, in the long run, be reconciled with Soviet objectives of nuclear arms reduction talks.

While there is no room for complacency or euphoria, what the story of the INF treaty reveals is this: Given the political will on both sides, no differences seem unbridgeable. If the INF accord covers the elimination of only three per cent of the superpower nuclear arsenals, the momentum generated by it should not be allowed to wane in effectively dealing with the remaining 97 per cent. For, all, including the superpowers, know only too well that a world without nuclear weapons is a safer one to live in.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A successful visit

THE enthusiastic welcome accorded to King Hussein and the successful talks he held with Swiss leaders over the past few days reflect the prominent image Jordan has abroad, and the important position the Kingdom assumes among the community of nations. In his talks, the King was careful to reiterate Jordan's clear position vis a vis the Palestine question, and the Iran-Iraq war. In referring to the Arab-Israeli conflict the monarch reasserted Jordan's demand for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that can bring about peace and achieve settlement to the problem. For this peace to come, he said, there must be an international conference in which all concerned parties should participate. The King called on the international community in general and appealed to Switzerland in particular to contribute to the settlement of the Gulf conflict and help the United Nations implement Security Council Resolution 598 that calls for an end to the war between Iran and Iraq. The King hinted that Switzerland can play a positive role in both problems and said that through its neutral stance it can help resolve world issues and help re-establish peace in both the Middle East and the Gulf regions. Bilateral relations and cooperation were also discussed by the two sides in Bern, and the King did not fail to express appreciation to Switzerland for helping Jordan implement its development projects.

Al Dustour: King urges Swiss to help peace

IN his talks with Swiss leaders, King Hussein dwelt in detail on the situation in the Middle East which witnesses Israeli occupation of Arab land, and the Gulf region where Iran has been pursuing war on the Arab land. In urging the Swiss government to play a leading role in resolving the two issues, King Hussein said that the proposed international conference remains the most practical and proper means for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 which would end Israel's occupation of Arab land. The monarch stressed that in ending the conflict, attention should be given to the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people so that peace can be lasting, and serves the future generations. In referring to the Gulf, the King said that the seven-year-old conflict there has caused untold sufferings and destruction and he called on the international community to end the war on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598. Through his appeal and his talks with the Swiss leaders, the King has been hopeful that this neutral state can and must play a leading role in the establishment of world peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: A step towards world peace

U.S.-Soviet negotiations to reduce nuclear threat have been going on for the past quarter of a century and it is only Friday that the two sides arrived at an initial agreement to remove short and medium range missiles. This agreement has been received with deep relief in various world capitals which are concerned over the future of humanity. The agreement could be described as a direct and positive response to calls from various world nations which at present suffer from economic and social ills and want peace to achieve development. This agreement between the superpowers is bound to open the way for the Soviet and American leaderships to discuss other military and political issues that are of direct impact on the world community in general and the peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States in particular.

With INF agreement, superpowers head into new era of detente

By Robert Evans

Reuter

WASHINGTON — With an agreement on concluding the first disarmament treaty of the nuclear age, the United States and Soviet Union appear firmly headed into a new era of detente.

Three days of talks in Washington between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze have resurrected a mood recalling the heady days of superpower wooing in the early 1970s.

Once again a right-wing president with virulent anti-Communist convictions has accepted the logic that if the two sides are condemned to live with each other, they have to work together to keep the peace.

On the Soviet side, a reform-minded Kremlin leadership has demonstrated that Moscow is ready to suppress its deep mistrust of a powerful United States and come to deals which are far

from satisfying all its aims. Officials on both sides are avoiding euphoria. "I still don't think it's lily-white," said President Reagan on Friday when asked if he persisted in his earlier-stated belief that the Soviet Union was "an evil empire."

And almost simultaneously, Shevardnadze told a news conference at the Soviet embassy just a short walk from the White House that although he felt a great deal of optimism, "many contradictions remain in Soviet-American relations."

But analysts say the clear advance across a wide range of problems at issue between the two powers during these three hot September days in Washington had created a climate where almost anything seemed possible.

Long-time commentators on the superpower relationship said a small but highly significant indicator was Moscow's apology on Friday, announced publicly by Shevardnadze himself, over a shooting incident involving a U.S. soldier in East Germany. Shevardnadze's statement said

both sides were at fault — a far cry from the days, as one analyst noted, when in any affair of this type "the Soviet Union was always totally right and everyone else was always 100 per cent wrong."

And on human rights, for years an area of fierce charges and counter-charges, Shevardnadze and Shultz agreed they were talking "constructively" and that the whole issue was "a two-way street."

Renouncing any claim to Soviet perfection, Shevardnadze said the present leadership in Moscow was engaged in "breaking up a lot of old structures and patterns," adding: "But we still have our bureaucrats, as I think you do."

As a prelude to their announcement that a treaty to destroy all their medium- and shorter-range land-based nuclear missiles was to be concluded for signing at a summit this autumn, the two sides reported a key advance towards a total nuclear test ban.

Underground testing, permit-

ted by the 1963 treaty banning explosions in the atmosphere and under water, has been the topic of often bitter propaganda exchanges, particularly over the past two years.

But now the two powers have agreed to start working seriously together towards resolving their differences about verification, and even to stage experiments in each other's top-secret testing grounds.

Commented Professor Stephen Cohen, a Soviet affairs expert at Princeton University in New Jersey: "If they get to a test ban, that would be the end of the arms race."

But officials on both sides agree there is a long and hard road to travel before there can be any prospect for the world free of nuclear weapons envisioned briefly by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at Reykjavik in October last year.

The next step must be in the direction of an agreement to cut the huge strategic nuclear arsenals held by the two powers — a

problem Shevardnadze described on Friday as "the root question of Soviet-American relations."

He said the Washington talks had failed to bring positions closer together on this matter. Efforts to convince the Reagan administration to move away from its "Star Wars" project were still unsuccessful.

Shevardnadze held out the hope that between now and the third Reagan-Gorbachev summit, now likely in Washington in late November or December, an outline agreement on how to proceed could be reached and signed by the two leaders.

While Shevardnadze reported no movement from the U.S. side on "Star Wars" — Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) for a space-based defensive system — the Moscow position also appeared fixed.

"If there is any deployment of SDI, there can be no strategic arms agreement," Shevardnadze said.

And as he was speaking, the Pentagon announced it would speed up research in key areas of

SDI, although observing the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty whose interpretation is at issue between Washington and Moscow.

But there were strong signs that Soviet officials saw the influence of military and defence department hardeners, particularly Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, as on the wane.

At his news conference, Shevardnadze said he had a businesslike and constructive relationship marked by goodwill on both sides with Shultz.

But he shot two darts in the direction of Weinberger — one reporting that the defence secretary had yet to reply to an invitation to discuss with Moscow his allegations that it was violating the ABM treaty with a radar station in Siberia.

And then he called on U.S. journalists present to put pressure on Weinberger and the Pentagon to allow Soviet representatives to visit a U.S. radar installation at Thule in Greenland. Moscow has suggested the facility could violate the ABM treaty.

Perez de Cuellar's report on Gulf peace mission

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of an oral report given to the Security Council on Wednesday by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on his recent peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad.

Council members were also given written copies of his report, the text of which was unofficially released.

It is headed: "Statement by the secretary general on his mission to Iran and Iraq at Security Council consultations on 16 September 1987." (Text follows):

1. On 4 September 1987, the members of the Security Council agreed that I should respond favourably to the invitation extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran and set out the terms of my mandate for that visit. The council members further took note of my intention to also visit Baghdad.

2. I held consultations in Tehran on 12 and 13 September and in Baghdad on 14 and 15 September. In Tehran I met with the foreign minister, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati and his deputy Mr. Larjani, with the prime minister, Mr. Mir Hossein Mousavi, with the President Hojati-Isfahani, with the Speaker of the Parliament Hojati-Isfahani, with the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Mr. Rafsanjani, in that order, and in Baghdad I met with the foreign minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz and other senior advisers, and with the president, Mr. Saddam Hussein. I should like to place on record my appreciation to the two governments for the hospitality and courtesies extended to me during my stay in their respective capitals.

3. To both governments I presented the outline of a plan of implementation of Resolution 598 which I requested them to consider with a view to reaching agreement on the implementation of each of the provisions of the resolution as an integrated whole.

4. The outline of the plan for implementation included the following:

A. From a specific date, to be agreed upon, and referred to for the purpose of negotiations as D-day, a ceasefire would be observed;

B. On a specific date after D-day, which would have to be agreed upon, the withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognised boundaries would start (to be completed within an agreed time-frame);

C. On D-day, a team of United Nations observers would be despatched to verify, confirm and supervise the ceasefire and, subsequently, the withdrawal of all forces;

D. On D-day, or on an agreed date thereafter, prisoners-of-war would begin to be released and repatriated in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949;

E. On D-day, I would start negotiations with Iran and Iraq with a view to achieving a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of all outstanding issues acceptable to both sides;

F. On D-day, or another date to be agreed upon, an impartial body to inquire into responsibility for the conflict would start its work;

G. At a date to be agreed, the impartial body would complete its work;

H. On a day after D-day, to be agreed upon, I would despatch a team of experts to study the question of reconstruction;

I. On D-day, or on a date to be

agreed upon, I would start consultations with Iran and Iraq, and with other states concerned, on measures to enhance the security and stability of the region.

5. I further proposed to the two governments that, upon their concurrence with the outline of the plan of implementation agreement would have to be reached on the determination of D-day. This would have to be followed by negotiations on the preparations required to implement each of the measures envisaged in the outline. Those negotiations would have to be completed by D-day. I suggested that in case no agreement was reached on some of the preparations required, the parties would respect the decisions of the secretary general in that context.

6. At the outset of the discussions in Tehran, the Iranian authorities confirmed that the starting point of the discussions was their acceptance in New York of the concept of an integrated approach that would include a ceasefire as a first step. I should mention that during these talks there was no reference on the part of the Iranian authorities to a rejection of any part of the resolution. The discussions addressed all the questions related to the implementation of the resolution in the plan I suggested.

7. Throughout the discussions, all my Iranian interlocutors forcefully emphasised that the goal should be the establishment of peace on the basis of justice so as to ensure its durability. They insisted that the international community should acknowledge that the inquiry into the responsibility for the conflict must be given the highest priority in any attempt to progress towards a negotiated settlement. They

emphasised that, therefore, the key to opening the way towards peace was the establishment of a link between the ceasefire and the impartial inquiry. Long hours of discussion were spent on this point.

8. My understanding of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran as it emerged from my discussions with all my interlocutors in Tehran can be summarised as follows:

A. Iran accepts the implementation of Resolution 598 on the basis of an integrated approach which would include a ceasefire as a first step;

B. Iran insists, however, that a link should be established between the ceasefire and the identification of responsibility for the conflict. The observance of a formal ceasefire must be preceded by the process of the identification of the party responsible for the initiation of the conflict;

C. Iran would accordingly be prepared to accept an implementation plan in which the announcement of the identification of the party responsible for initiating the conflict and the beginning of the observance of a formal ceasefire would take place on the same date.

9. I was also given to understand that, if this approach were to be accepted by both sides, an undeclared cessation of hostilities could come into effect during the process of identification of the party responsible for the conflict. Upon the identification of the party responsible for the conflict, the undeclared cessation of hostilities would be replaced by the declaration of a formal ceasefire.

10. I think I should add that, in all the discussions concerning the issue of the identification of the responsibility for the conflict, all

my Iranian interlocutors expressed certainty that the process would prove their claim in this regard. They spoke with emphasis of the need for determination, judgment, punishment and reparations.

11. In Baghdad, upon receiving and reviewing the outline of the plan of implementation, the Iraqi authorities stated the view that the proposed outline was in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598. They reiterated that Iraq was ready to implement Resolution 598 as an integrated whole and to co-operate with me and with the Security Council to that end. In that connection, the Iraqi authorities referred to the letter the deputy prime minister addressed to me on 23 July 1987 containing the details of the Iraqi position.

12. The Iraqi authorities emphasised repeatedly that Iraq believes that the various provisions of the resolution should be implemented in the order of their sequence in the resolution itself. Iraq was of the view that if the Iranian position was to the effect that the implementation of paragraph 6 of the resolution should precede the declaration of a ceasefire, this represented a clear rejection of the resolution. The Iraqi authorities stated to me in detail the reasons for this view.

One important point that Iraq particularly stressed was that under no circumstances would Iraq accept an undeclared ceasefire. They also underlined that the ceasefire should be followed without delay by the withdrawal of all forces.

13. The Iraqi authorities stressed that Iraq was not against entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict. They recalled in this

connection that since 1981 Iraq had shown willingness to proceed to an inquiry into the question of the initiation of the conflict, first by agreeing to Iran's proposal to set up a commission of inquiry, as communicated to Iraq through the chairman of the mission of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and subsequently, by making and reiterating its own proposals for such a procedure.

14. With regard to the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 598, the Iraqi authorities expressed to me their view that the impartial body should be judicial in nature as it would be investigating a legal concept, namely the responsibility for the conflict. Iraq considered, moreover, that judicial determination was the best guarantee for the rights and interests of the conflicting parties.

15. I have attempted to provide the members of the council with a factual account of the positions expressed by the two governments in the context of the mandate set out by the council before my departure. Needless to say, whenever questions were raised which touched upon or involved a matter of interpretation of the resolution, I consistently took the position that it was only the Security Council that could decide on such questions.

16. In concluding, the only comment I should like to add is that both governments welcomed the mission, that all discussions were conducted in a cordial and serious atmosphere, that both governments continue to express confidence for my own efforts, and that both, from their own different perspectives, perceive the United Nations as possessing the greatest potential for bringing about an end to the war

Tamil massacres arouse concern for Sri Lanka peace process

By Andrew Tarnowski

Reuter

COLOMBO — An upsurge of bloody rivalry between Sri Lanka's Tamil militant groups is arousing concern for the island's seven-week-old peace process.

It is also testing India's resolve as guarantor of a July 29 peace accord.

The accord has ended four years' fighting between militant Tamil separatists and Sri Lankan government troops.

But inter-Tamil violence and mistrust between the militants and the government are delaying reforms designed to satisfy the minority Tamils and end the conflict with majority Sinhalese.

The most powerful Tamil separatist group, the dihard Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, opposes the accord but is going along under heavy Indian pressure.

Since last weekend when the Tigers slaughtered 75 unarmed rivals in the eastern district of Batticaloa, many Sri Lankans are

wondering when the 8,000 Indian peacekeeping troops will get tough and disarm all the militants.

"These arms are the only thing obstructing the peace accord," said a member of a moderate Tamil party who asked not to be identified. "Politicians are overlooking everything else but this is one matter in which we are helpless."

"I strongly fear that unless the Indians act soon the violence will spread."

"It's a battle for supremacy. Each group wants to be master in the Tamil regions, to be the sole group, the sole leader, the sole party," he said.

The militants surrendered many of their arms to the Indians after July 29 but refuse to hand-over the rest.

One reason, observers say, is that the Tigers fear reprisals for the killings of hundreds of members of rival Tamil groups in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

In the last two weeks 150 militants have died in the Tamil

power struggle amid turmoil to the north and east — which the Tamils regard as their rightful homeland.

After the Batticaloa massacre Indian troops clashed briefly with a group of Tigers and a top Indian general promised swift action to prevent further killings.

But he stopped short of a promise to disarm the groups and Indian diplomats declined to comment when asked if they would.

Sri Lankan officials say the next steps in the peace process — setting up a joint provisional administration in the north and east and holding elections there this year — cannot be attempted until security is restored.

"How can you have free and fair elections in these circumstances?" the Tamil moderate asked. "I think the Indians will have to go for the arms very soon. I don't see any other way out."

"It won't be easy. That's why they are delaying a bit. But ultimately they have to go for it and make a decision very soon."

S. Africa's latest reform offers no 'quick fix' to race dilemma

By David Rogers

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's latest proposals for reforming apartheid offer the black majority no early prospect of seats in parliament or homes alongside whites.

They are also unlikely to relieve foreign pressure on Pretoria as the U.S. Congress and the Commonwealth again prepare to debate South Africa, according to Western diplomats.

White leaders have outlined two new initiatives to ease the rigid system of racial segregation known as apartheid. Each has been accompanied by cautionary pronouncements that there will be no "quick fix" to the country's racial dilemma.

The phrase, used by Gavin Rely, the comparatively liberal head of the Anglo American mining empire, has been picked up by government spokesmen and used repeatedly to reassure worried whites that rapid change is not at hand.

The President's Council, an advisory body, this week did recommend a procedure for opening up white residential areas to other races, presently compelled to live in inferior townships.

The report stressed, however, that the Group Areas Act, which dictates where people can live according to the colour of their skin, should stay.

The crux of the contorted, 250-page report was that white districts remain white unless the residents themselves want other races as neighbours.

Few white municipalities are expected to take up the option and the very suggestion was immediately condemned by the fast-growing, extreme-right Conservative Party.

Reformist whites complained the report did not go far enough.

The President's Council... acknowledges at last the need to abandon the wicked business of assigning the various races to separate ghettos but it proposes only the most timid steps — and the most complicated procedures

— to undo the harm of the past," the English-language newspaper Business Day said.

Non-Whites voiced dismay over the report which has taken three years to prepare. When the President's Council began its study, black townships were torn by political violence.

Since then two events have changed South Africa's political backdrop — a state of emergency has enabled security forces to stifle black unrest and the pro-apartheid white right wing emerged as a real challenge to President P.W. Botha's National Party in last May's election.

"Just when the government claims to be moving away from apartheid, it releases a report which accepts the Group Areas Act in principle," the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front movement lamented.

More militant black organisations said the report, almost certain to be adopted by the government, killed the idea that apartheid could be gradually phased out.

Tirana-Bonn diplomatic ties reflect new open mood in Albania

By Peter Humphrey

Reuter

TIRANA, Albania — Albania, a relatively closed Communist society, has demonstrated a new mood of cautiously expanding ties with Western Europe by opening diplomatic relations with West Germany.

Tirana's decision to establish relations with Bonn, announced on Tuesday, follows 42 years of acrimony over unpaid German war reparations and clears the way for an opening with Britain, the last West European state with which Albania has no ties, di-

plomatic analysts say. Albania has diplomatic links with over 100 states but shuns alliances and is hostile to both superpowers. The Balkan state remains an under-developed country after four decades of authoritarian Communism under late party leader Enver Hoxha who died three years ago.

This year Albania established diplomatic ties with Spain, and only last week with Canada.

Britain and Albania have made no progress in talks over mutual claims left from after the war. Albania refuses to pay damages for British warships which it

mined in the Corfu channel in 1946 and Britain refuses to release \$70 million worth of gold held since the war against these British claims.

But Albania's move in dropping claims for German reparations act could be cited as a diplomatic precedent.

Albanian officials say they do not like Albania being labelled as isolationist and Western analysts here said the latest diplomatic move reflects a current openness in political life.

This month this mountainous republic of three million people also improved links with neigh-

bouring Greece which lifted a state of war imposed 40 years ago.

With neighbouring Yugoslavia, also a non-bloc Communist state, relations are strained under mutual allegations of interference in each other's internal affairs, and especially because of Yugoslavia's ethnic Albanian minority.

Both superpowers recently have made gestures to Albania but both have been snubbed by Tirana which loyally upholds Hoxha's antipathy to both Washington and Moscow.

The Germans, last here as Nazi invaders in World War II, are

searching now for an embassy building to join the 18 diplomatic missions in Tirana.

Officials in London have said a British embassy will also be set up here if their differences can be solved.

Albania jealously guards independence, hard won under Hoxha's leadership after centuries of foreign domination.

It abruptly ended flirtation with Moscow in the 1960's and again with China in the 1970's accusing them of trickery.

While Albania remains reluctant to borrow money abroad, a gradual rapprochement with

Western Europe may help it to overcome economic difficulties through new and balanced forms of trade.

The country has valuable minerals useful to Europe especially chrome ore, and an untapped potential for tourism along its sunny Adriatic coast.

Cautious rethinking of the economy is under way under Hoxha's successor President Ramiz Alia who recently criticised food shortages and weaknesses in industry and agriculture and a modest system of pay incentives is slowly being introduced.

Jehan Sadat moves out of the shadow of Anwar's death

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

NEW YORK — The last time the world focused on Jehan Sadat, she was mourning her husband, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, after his assassination by Muslim extremists at a military parade.

Now Egypt's former first lady lives quietly in Virginia, mows her own lawn, shovels snow from her own driveway and builds a new existence in the United States.

But in her closet are gruesome souvenirs of Sadat's violent death on October 6, 1981 — his blood-stained undershirt and military hat.

She was in the stands as assassins gunned him down, and she was the one to tell the new president, Hosni Mubarak, "It seems Sadat is gone. It is your turn to lead the country now."

"Sometimes I blame myself," she told Reuters in an interview about her just-published memoirs, "A Woman of Egypt."

"Why didn't we pay more attention? Why didn't we protect him? Why didn't I insist that he wear the bullet-proof vest? ... But I believe in fate. It was his time, as he used to tell me always: 'When my time comes, nothing will stop it.'"

Elegant and composed, Sadat believes she will be remembered as more than the wife of Anwar Sadat, the revolutionary who be-

came Egypt's president, the Muslim who went to Jerusalem, the man who in 1979 signed the Camp David peace accords with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Jimmy Carter.

She married Sadat in 1949. She was 16 and he was 30, a divorced father of three, the son of a village headman. Jehan had grown up as Jean, the daughter of a well-off Egyptian businessman and his British wife.

"Anwar fitted none of the classic categories for a husband," she writes. "His family was poor, from a lower class than mine. He was divorcing his wife. He had no home, no money at all."

But she married him. "When you fall in love, you never think of any other thing," she said with a laugh. "So far as there is love, it makes such miracles."

Jehan's real activism began in 1960, when she founded a women's sewing cooperative to turn out uniforms — and to give the women some sense of self-sufficiency.

She also organized hospital volunteers, led campaigns for day care, literacy and birth control, and was elected to a powerful, formerly all-male Egyptian government body, the Council of Ministers.

She was the first wife of an Egyptian leader to be seen in the media. She persuaded her hus-

band not to walk out of the talks that eventually yielded the Camp David peace accords.

"Once I was out of my home, it was not easy to go back in again and to be just a mother and a wife," Sadat said.

The notion of a feminist Muslim may seem a contradiction to some Westerners, and one reason Sadat wrote her book was to clear up what she sees as misconceptions of Islam.

"You (in the West) have a misunderstood image of Islam," she said. "Islam is a religion for love and forgiving and it's not for revenge, it's not for violence at all ... What we are suffering is not Islam, it's the severe traditions we inherited."

Proponents of those traditions — Muslim fundamentalists now gaining strength in the Middle East — have criticised Jehan Sadat for years. They circulate audio cassettes that paint her as power-hungry, materialistic and greedy.

She rejects the fundamentalist attack on her as lies, saying: "That is because I am for women's rights. I am an open woman, working. That never pleases the fundamentalists ..."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi repeatedly attacked Sadat for what he called her "forwardness." But he was interested enough to try to arrange a marriage between his cousin

and her 12-year-old daughter. She declined.

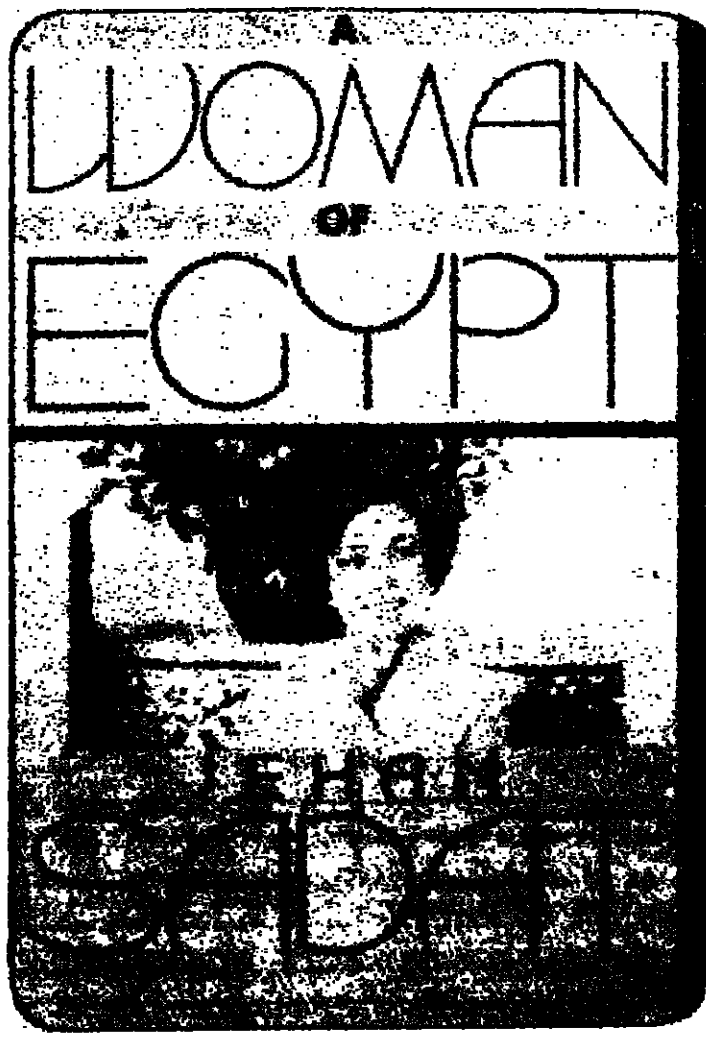
Despite the criticism, and despite her vivid memories of the Muslim fundamentalists who gunned down her husband, Sadat does not feel at risk in Egypt, where she travels each summer to see some of her four children and 10 grandchildren.

The Muslim fundamentalism that brought the veil back to women in Iran is not so strong in Egypt, Sadat said, noting that many Egyptian women wear Western dress.

She herself would never agree to wear traditional Muslim garb: "I could put on a (long) dress and cover my hair and my attitude would not be perfect. I always believe in what is right between you and God, which no one will see."

Sadat faced criticism when she first came to the United States, where some accused her of taking a fortune from Egypt and charging exorbitant fees for lectures and university courses. She denied those accusations, saying that 75 per cent of her speeches are made free of charge.

"The six years since my husband's death have been difficult ones for me," she wrote. "... I have neither asked for nor received any favours. I am making my way alone and with dignity. I am very proud as an Egyptian woman to do this."



Asma: A grandmother at 30

By A.U.M. Fakhruddin

The writer is a journalist with the Bangladesh Times. This article was distributed by BHPF, Better Health for Women and Children Through Family Planning, Nairobi, Kenya.

DHAKA — Asma Khatun was only nine when she was given in marriage to her husband, Malek. She went to live with him at puberty.

"When I was barely 12, I became a mother for the first time. I have given birth to seven children altogether, but two died in infancy. My eldest daughter is 16, and is already a mother of two. So you see, I am a grandmother as well." Asma is a few months over 30.

Asma's story is hardly unique in Bangladesh, where child marriage is very common. The custom is so prevalent that legislation banning marriage before the age of 18 has had little effect. In rural areas, it is rare to meet an unmarried girl of 14 or 15. The social cost is high. Young mothers lose their health and ability to work. They become unattractive to their husbands,

who look down on them.

Compared to most women, Asma is actually quite well off. She has a job which pays her 1,000 Taka (\$30) a month, roughly three times the average Bangladeshi income. This enables her to live in a one-room shanty in a slum neighbourhood seven miles from Dhaka.

Asma was born in a village 30 miles away. Her father was a craftsman who made combs out of buffalo horn. They were poor, but things became worse when he died. "My relatives were worried about me. They thought I should be married as soon as a good husband could be found because there might be no one to care for me." Malek was 21 when she was married to him. She went to live with him when she was 11.

What kind of "good husband" he proved to be is another matter. Living with him meant bearing his children, year after year. Then he started to return home late at night, and used most of his money for gambling. Her second child became sick with diarrhoea. Holy water and talismans did not help. By the time her relatives took the child to the hospital, it was too late.

Neither the death of his child, nor the state of his crumbling fortunes, nor his wife's next pregnancy, prevented Malek from marrying again. By the time Asma's third child was born, he had married a third time and moved out. Except for sleeping with him from time to time — which led always to another pregnancy — Asma had no relationship left with him. Malek gave her no money to support the children.

Asma turned to the black market to stay alive. "I had some fake ration cards — 10 to be precise — and with them I could get wheat, sugar, and rice at subsidised prices. I would sell most of the food and we ate the rest. It kept me and my children alive."

Meanwhile, she still kept bearing her husband's children although they did not live together. Physically she was a wreck, and breast-feeding her newborn children was impossible. One daughter, Maleka, died at one week old. By the time she bore her seventh child (now seven years old), her husband had married six times. In all, he married nine times, something of

a record even in Bangladesh.

According to Asma, the reason Malek manages to get away with his endless marriages is because he marries women who are so poor and deprived that they don't expect him to look after them.

Identity as a wife, anybody's wife, is enough. They work as domestic helps or serve in food shops, and they are beneath the contempt even of Asma.

Although she doesn't recognise it, Asma's own position is in many ways the same as that of the "low wives" of Malek on whom she so looks down. She has remained married to Malek all these years because as a wife she has some social status even if her husband has married nine times and never provided for the family. Although her life is terribly disadvantaged, it would be even worse without the distant shadow of the husband who has made it so.

Asma's family is scattered. They can't afford to stay together. "It happened one day when we were having the midday meal. There wasn't enough, and the children began to fight. Not just scream and shout but tear at each other.



Asma and two of her children

It was too much for me.

"I couldn't bear it any more. I wanted to get rid of them. I told them I wouldn't be able to feed them. I screamed the words to them. That day my family broke up." Now Asma's two sons are vendors in the footpaths of Dhaka. The girls are working too. "We all want to stay alive."

Malek still visits her sometimes. After all, he is her husband. And she still spends the night with him if he desires. But at least she now has protection against pregnancy. She works for

a Dhaka-based organisation, Concerned Women for Family Planning, and they have put her on the pill.

Asma has a stamina whose source can't wholly be explained. "I understand. Perhaps it comes from never asking why her life has turned out this way. Although it is her husband more than anyone else who has landed her in such dire straits, she will never cease to be the wife she is. The price she and her children have paid is their health and happiness, past, present and future."

Medical breakthroughs wending way through U.S. regulatory maze

By Irwin Arieff

Reuter

WASHINGTON — A just-approved cholesterol treatment that may help millions fight off heart disease is one of many potential medical breakthroughs wending their way through the U.S. government regulatory maze, drug analysts say.

Government regulators earlier this month approved a new type of cholesterol fighter, called lovastatin and made by Merck, that was found during clinical tests on humans to be able to lower blood cholesterol by 18 to 34 per cent.

Experts said the drug may benefit as many as 10 million Americans with excessive cholesterol levels that have not responded to dietary restrictions or exercise.

Industry analysts and government officials say the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is clogged with applications for other promising new therapies, some of which repre-

sent radical improvements over currently available treatments for some serious diseases.

Among the experimental new medicines moving through the bureaucracy are chemicals that may ultimately prove able to dissolve the blood clots that cause heart attacks, slow the progression of AIDS and combat cancers.

Others may help grow hair on bald patches, help people shed excess weight or alleviate a drinking problem.

Drugs never move through the bureaucracy as quickly as disease victims would like, and recent budget and staff cuts have tended to slow their progress even further.

Then there is the agency's usual caution in weighing the safety and efficacy of powerful compounds whose benefits may mask harmful side effects.

In the case of AIDS, in particular, the agency has come under fire for moving too slowly on

promising treatments, though it has given AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) its highest priority.

"The FDA is applying rules to AIDS that were written in the Thaleside era," Larry Kramer, co-founder of the gay men's Health Crisis Centre in New York, complained to a presidential commission on AIDS last week.

He referred to a drug found to cause gruesome birth defects only after it had been marketed widely in Europe but blocked by the FDA for sale in this country.

"Many of the people with AIDS only have two years to live," Kramer said, urging faster federal action.

To date, only one drug — a compound called AZT made by Burroughs Wellcome — has been approved by the FDA for AIDS in the U.S. market. The drug does not cure AIDS but slows its progression and improves the

lives of victims.

Numerous other promising anti-AIDS compounds are at early stages of testing on animals and humans.

The FDA in mid-August approved the first human tests in the United States of a vaccine against the AIDS virus developed by tiny firm Microgenysys.

Agency officials said other potential vaccines are not far behind though scientists predict that developing a successful vaccine will be a protracted process.

Another drug mired in controversy at the FDA is TPA, a bio-engineered blood-clot dissolving agent made by Genentech.

The compound has been found in tests on humans to prevent and even stop heart attacks in progress by clearing blockages in the veins and arteries that bring blood to the heart.

In a surprise setback, an expert FDA committee voted in May

against recommending final approval of the drug, saying more data was needed.

The vote caused an uproar in the medical community and prompted a special FDA review to determine if TPA should now be approved without further delay.

Upjohn's Minoxidil baldness treatment gained worldwide attention when researchers found that the compound, a blood pressure medication, could sprout hair on some bald heads.

Though its approval was endorsed months ago by an FDA expert committee, the agency is not likely to take final action on Minoxidil for several more

months, officials said.

In the meantime, a lively black market has developed.

A potential breakthrough in the treatment of obesity and alcoholism may come in final approval of fluoxetine, a new anti-depressant under development by Eli Lilly.

An unusual side effect of the drug is that it appears to suppress desires to over-eat and over-drink by manipulating the brain's own chemistry.

Though it will probably be approved by the FDA later this fall only for use in treating depression, physicians will be free under U.S. drug laws to prescribe it for other uses.

How the rich get richer

The International Monetary Fund has examined the phenomenon of capital flight and its effects on the debtor nations of the Third World. Stephen Fidler reports.

LONDON — The picture of the moneyed classes in Latin America salting away millions in offshore bank accounts while their countries slide into economic decline is one of the most potent images of the Third World debt crisis.

A new study into capital flight by the International Monetary Fund has attempted to define and quantify the problem and work out what to do about it.

Capital flight certainly represents an obstacle in the minds of creditors to lending more money to troubled debtor countries. In a recent comment on the subject, Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York said: "Creditors, both private and official, are understandably reluctant to provide fresh funds unless the debtors put a stop to capital flight."

But the real problem is broader, the IMF study suggests. The pace of growth of an economy is retarded, foreign indebtedness increases, the cost of carrying public debt is raised, the share of the public sector in investment increases and a government's tax base is eroded.

But, as the study points out, capital flight — bouts of which have been identified as early as the 17th century — is usually a symptom of fiscal and monetary policies which give residents strong incentives to acquire foreign assets.

The motive for capital flight, it says, is "a resident's concern that, if his wealth were held domestically, it would be subject to a substantial loss or impairment."

But the difficulties of quantifying this are complicated by the fact that not all private capital outflows are capital flight. Furthermore, money which may have left a country for legitimate reasons may turn into flight capital if the economic outlook changes at home.

The study suggests that capital outflows of capital importing countries in the 11 years to 1985 amounted to about \$250 billion, accounting for one-third of the increase in these countries' external debt over the period.

Of this, perhaps three-fifths — some \$150 billion to \$200 billion — could be viewed as capital flight. But its rate of growth has been uneven: From a modest \$5 billion annually from 1975 to 1978, it accelerated sharply in the late 1970s and early 1980s to \$25 billion to \$30 billion a year and then slowed again. (In 1986, according to estimates by Morgan Guaranty, some \$1.7 billion of flight capital may have been repatriated in total to the 10 main Third World debtors.)

As is suggested by the popular image, the IMF study shows that capital flight appears to have been most significant in countries with debt problems, particularly those in Latin America.

"In absolute terms the outflows from the western hemisphere were larger than for all other regions combined... The driving force behind the capital outflows from Africa and the western hemisphere was capital flight, (which) accounted for over four-fifths of the outflows."

The study concludes that the nature of the capital flight changed within the period in a way which, in its words, "has had a number of implications, all of them unpleasant."

While international banks were continuing to lend money to these countries, they were effectively acting as intermediaries between domestic savers and investors. They accepted deposits from residents and lent money into the countries.

When the banks were lending, this was not an immediate problem. However, it did increase these countries' foreign debt and contributed significantly to the shift in perceptions of investors as to their creditworthiness.

When they stopped willingly lending money to these countries, "capital flight became immediately translated into a loss of resources."

"This is a much more serious situation than the 'churning' of claims that took place in the 1970s," the study says. This is so for several reasons. It puts unwanted pressure on the exchange rate, which may lead the authorities to adopt more restrictive fiscal and monetary policies. It undermines economic growth, a problem which may carry into the medium term because it is likely to reduce investment.

The solution suggested by the report is first to "adjust policies so as to avoid the pronounced discrimination against resident holders of domestic assets that has begun to prevail among developing countries." That means, where possible, shifting to market-determined interest rates.

A second implication is to adopt policies to keep the exchange rate in line with private sector expectations — in other words float the exchange rate. "If this cannot be done, then sound financial policies — controlling the fiscal deficit and thereby keeping inflationary expectations under control — become more critical."

These policies would not stop capital flight aimed at avoiding tax, however, and this is one reason why there is support for capital controls. The other main argument in favour of capital controls suggests that the social rate of return on domestic investment is greater than the private rate of return to the investor and therefore the investor should be forced to keep his funds in the country.

— Financial Times feature.

CAPITAL FLIGHT FROM CAPITAL-IMPORTING COUNTRIES

(annual averages: \$ billion)

	1975-78	1979-82	1983-85	Total
Africa	1.7	4.1	1.8	28.5
Asia	-0.8	7.0	-2.2	18.3
Europe	1.1	2.7	3.0	24.0
Non-oil Middle East	0.2	-0.7	2.7	6.2
Western Hemisphere	3.7	14.7	11.0	106.6

Source: IMF

Biggest Arab city gets facelift before metro opens

By Bahgat Badie

Reuter

CAIRO — Dressed in rags, Mustafa Ahmed rubbed furiously at his client's muddy shoes trying to establish their colour.

He got nowhere fast in the hazy pall of dust that hangs over Tahrir Square, the chaotic traffic hub of the largest city in the Middle East.

"There are plenty of shoes to shine. It's good business," 13-year-old Mustafa said of central Cairo's latest disruption.

After more than two years of traffic upheaval and noise as contractors dug giant holes for an underground railway, Tahrir Square and some other areas are getting a facelift.

The square hums with activity round the clock as workers strive to smarten it up for the opening of the Middle East's first underground rail network on September 27.

On the city outskirts, at the Giza pyramids, streets are being cleaned for the premiere of a new gala production of Verdi's opera Aida in front of the Sphinx.

The pyramids road from the city centre has been resurfaced, and the area sprayed to keep down mosquitoes and flies.

The price of all this activity is high for pedestrians and motorists sweating through traffic jams.

"Tahrir Square has earned itself the name of perimeter of hell," said a resident of an apartment block on the square.

Locals are used to hearing car brakes, constant traffic noise, shouting and ambulance or police car sirens as Cairo's negotiators the oval asphalt expanse, half-a-mile (800 metres) long and half as wide, in hot-blooded Mediterranean fashion.

But in preparation for the French-built metro, one of whose stations is on the square, authorities have created a slice of extra — if temporary — disorder.

Not only are they asphaltting Tahrir Square, they have dug down to the hardcore and are laying new limestone foundations.

The square, bordered by the Egyptian Museum, a luxury hotel, the onetime Arab League headquarters and a big govern-

ment office block, currently looks like a small man-made desert.

A drive across the River Nile from Zamalek island to Tahrir, normally 10 minutes, can now take an hour in the sweltering heat and a suffocating mixture of dust and fumes.

"Exhaust pipes from stalled cars burning up thousands of gallons of gas pump out enough pollution to give the atmosphere a near-permanent odour of car fumes," said a foreign diplomat.

The chaos should disappear soon, if official plans are realised. Buildings round the square are getting a whitewash, while workers are planting trees. The asphalt jungle should resemble an orderly, if complex, traffic junction with the blacktop relieved by an airy green space in the middle.

New pedestrian lanes are being built to replace ugly overhead walkways ripped up last week by army bulldozers and cranes.

Other squares with metro stations and main roads leading to them are getting similar treatment.

Cairenes are meanwhile getting government lessons in how to

behave after the metro opens to public on October 1.

Television programmes are telling people to keep the neatly-tiled tunnels clean and giving tips on how to get about in the new system.

Smoking will be banned in the metro. Officials say beggars and people urinating in the tunnels, as some of Cairo's 12 million people occasionally do in dark corners, face arrest.

A special police squad will patrol stations and fine offenders on the spot.

Newspaper columnists have voiced fears that the underground could be a sanctuary for criminals, and that the homeless may find the stations attractive dwelling space.

Fares have been fixed at 25 and 50 piastres (about 10 and 20 cents). Coloured signs will guide the illiterate.

Communications Minister Soliman Metwally said in a television interview that the underground, by enabling people to leave their cars at home, will cut petrol consumption by at least 35 per cent.

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Seoul presses Pyongyang on share of Olympic events

TOKYO (Agencies) — The International Olympic Committee has determined that North Korea is incapable of hosting the five Olympic events the IOC is offering it, South Korea's ruling party president said Saturday.

Democratic Justice Party President Roh Tae-woo also said he has learned that the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China are privately urging North Korea to take part in next year's games, which the North has threatened to boycott if an agreement allowing it to co-host the competition is not worked out.

"Five is the most events the IOC will offer North Korea," Roh said at a luncheon at the Japan National Press Club. "But an IOC delegation visited North Korea, and their determination was that North Korea is not capable of hosting five events."

Roh is the South Korean ruling party's presidential candidate. He stopped in Japan on his way home from a visit to the United States, where he met with U.S. lawmakers and President Ronald Reagan.

The IOC delegation, led by Alexandru Sipercu, an IOC member from Romania, visited North Korea in May to inspect sports and other facilities.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said before the visit that he hoped North Korea would allow the delegation to pass through the demilitarised zone that separates South Korea from the North. Pyongyang refused.

North Korea, separated from the South since the end of World War II, has been threatening to initiate a boycott of the Seoul games unless it is allowed to co-host them.

Roh said: "I hope North Korea will participate. But even if it does not, I am confident it will be the largest and most splendid Olympics ever." He said the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee has sent out invitations to

167 countries.

The IOC has offered North Korea five sports — table tennis, archery, women's volleyball, a men's cycling race and some preliminary soccer matches.

IOC President Samaranch has called it the international body's "final offer." Pyongyang has countered that it wants five full sports and part of a sixth. North Korea at one time sought eight full sports, a third of the Olympic programme.

The two sides have not yet agreed on further meetings over the co-hosting question.

North Korea is building several sports arenas including a main stadium designed to hold 200,000 people, according to the IOC. The official North Korean press has reported that the country is also constructing several large hotels, including one that will be 105 stories high.

On Friday, South Korea's Foreign Minister Choi Kwang-soo said it was already too late for North Korea to adequately stage some events at the 1988 games but he added talks would continue with Pyongyang.

Asked at a news conference he held in Los Angeles about when the issue had to be settled for logistical reasons, Choi said:

"We have completed almost all facilities, including the stadiums, the various office facilities as well as accommodations for the athletes, press corps and so forth."

"And now we are preparing for the final stage of our preparations. So in a sense it is already too late."

Choi, in Los Angeles to address the World Affairs Council, noted that the International

Olympic Committee had sent out invitations to a record 167 countries to compete next September and responses are due by Jan. 17.

"I think we will continue our talks with them in the hope that we may reach the agreement in the very near future so that the North Koreans may have, not enough, but at least a minimum of five events," Choi said.

The foreign minister said it would be all but impossible for North Korea to have adequate facilities ready in time for IOC inspection and approval before the games next September.

"They have to be approved well before the games are held," Choi said, adding that South Korea was ready to stage all 237 individual events if the North rejected the IOC's final offer.

IOC President Samaranch, seeking to avert a communist-bloc boycott of the summer games, has overseen four rounds of talks between North and South Korea. Last July he took the unprecedented step of offering a symbolic sharing of the games by giving Pyongyang 10 of the individual events.

South Korea, after spending five years and about \$3 billion on preparations, agreed with the offer. North Korea said it was far too little.

Samaranch rejected giving any more events to North Korea, which has been adamant about getting the soccer finals, but said in Lausanne on Thursday that if Pyongyang agreed in principle to the deal some events could be swapped for others.

The IOC offered in July North Korea all eight events in archery and table tennis, women's volleyball, the men's 100-kilometre cycle road race and one preliminary round of soccer.

Samaranch said North Korea must act quickly to accept the offer, as organising any transfers after Jan. 17 would be very difficult.

Soviets experiment with private soccer

MOSCOW (AP) — One of the top Soviet soccer teams has switched to "self-financing," a new management system that transforms the team into the country's first professional sports club.

The TASS news agency and the newspaper Sovetsky Sport reported Saturday that the Dnepr Club of Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine will be getting no more government subsidies.

Players' salaries, facilities, equipment and all other expenses will be paid out of ticket receipts, donations from fans and sales of souvenirs and emblems, TASS said.

Dnepr is one of the 12 soccer teams in the Soviet Union's High League, which participates in European competitions.

Sovetsky Sport noted that its pages had carried a discussion among sports officials in January and February on the wisdom of allowing professional sports to develop in the Soviet Union, and that the resulting opinion was an experiment would be advisable.

"And here is the first one," Sovetsky Sport declared.

Both reports said soccer is the most popular sport in the Dnepropetrovsk region, and that the new professional club could sell training and counselling services for additional income.

Money could be raised if the team performs well and fans are willing to pay annual dues to belong to booster clubs, the reports said. They did not explain what benefits other than enjoyment of a financially viable team that the patrons would gain.

Commercial advertising also could earn income, TASS said, but no details of those opportunities were disclosed.

"Our financial success is tied, first of all, with our success in getting into the national championships and other tournaments, and depends, of course, on the quality of Dnepr's play," senior coach Yevgeny Kucherevsky told TASS.

Most Soviet sports are funded by the government, which in turn takes in some income from ticket sales. But the traditional system of management lacks a profit motive, and most teams are believed to be financially losers.

"Self-financing" is one of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms aimed at curbing losses and improving the overall national economy. It requires enterprises to generate sufficient income to pay all expenses of operation and future expansion.

Soviet sports officials have previously denied that professional sports exist in the Soviet Union.

Budd returns with a bang after recovery

BANGOR, Northern Ireland (R) — Briton Zola Budd, World Cross Country champion in 1985 and 1986, made a public comeback on Saturday with victory in a 10-kilometre road race and said she hoped to run in the Olympic games.

The South African-born runner, granted British citizenship in 1984, had been out of action for more than a year because of a hamstring injury but ran two recent club races under an assumed name to avoid publicity.

Her winning time here was 32 minutes and 17 seconds — two minutes inside the target she had set herself. Afterwards, Budd said her injury was better and she was looking forward to the Olympics in Seoul next year.

"I will decide later between the 3,000 metres and the 10,000," she said.

Reflections on the Fourth Asian Handball Championship

Jordanian teams 'were not ready' for such international competition

By Nermeen Murad and Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When Jordan recently hosted the Asian Handball Championships, it acknowledged that chances for its men's and women's teams to reach an advanced position among the more experienced international teams were quite slim — but the organisers did not expect such a flop.

To the disappointment of the national teams' supporters, as well as organisers of the event, the men's team placed ninth among 11 teams while the women's team trailed at the bottom of the short list of six teams.

Lamentations, accusations and counter accusations emanated from what was perceived as somewhat embarrassing performance by the host country. Some blamed the handball federation, others held the teams themselves responsible in addition to the Ministry of Youth. Other commentators said they believed the outcome was only expected. The immediate result nevertheless, was the disbanding of the women's team.

Mr. Adnan Naghaway, President of the Jordanian Handball Federation said the federation took the decision to disband the women's team because of several factors. "From the beginning, we were told by the people responsible to not give any attention to the women's team," he told the Jordan Times in apparent reference to the Ministry of Youth. "We were told to basically forget about it. But despite that, we went ahead and took special interest in the team."

He explained that "there were no special funds allocated for the women's team. We received JD 7,000 for the championships and we went ahead and used some of that money to cover expenses of the women's team," he explained.

"We supported that team," he said, "but now we regret that decision." He explained that to his dismay "a large number of women players were not interested and often did not abide by their training programme."

"According to Mr. Naghaway, three factors led the federation to disband the women's team: The lack of funds for the team, the small number of women players available in the country and the attitude of the women players themselves," in regards lack of discipline.

The federation's efforts are now to concentrate solely on the men's team. Earlier interviews



Jordan's goalie Bassam Nijm flies to fend off a Syrian attacker during last month's Asian games.

with members of the men's and women's national teams as well as officials in the federation revealed that indeed, no one party was responsible for the mediocre performance by the two national teams at the Asian Games. Rather, a combination of factors accounted for that performance.

Mr. Naghaway said that, for starters, "the decision to host the games was not a good one. It was imposed on us," he explained, adding that "our national teams were not adequately prepared" for the championship.

"There was no time for our teams to carry out a planned programme that would have included matches with teams from other countries," Mr. Naghaway told the Jordan Times.

The federation's president cited the fact that members of the team were "unable to practice as professionals" and "as full-time players. That," he believed, was one of the main reasons behind the teams' failure to offer their full potential.

He added that, had there been an "alternate team" that received year-round training to ease off the pressure on the main players, the Jordanian teams "would have been better qualified to take on

the other Asian teams."

It follows, of course, that the team's coach was inevitably held accountable for the national teams' performance throughout the championships. "The men's coach put in a lot of effort in the four months prior to the games," Mr. Naghaway said. "Training the teams for almost four hours a day. But he is under tremendous pressure, and as a result there were some flaws in his decisions," he added. "We think the decisions he took were not always sound." He did not elaborate.

According to members of the men's national team, foremost among factors that hindered their performance was the lack of continuity and consistency in the federation's policy towards the team and their training.

One player, said the coach, who was assigned to train the teams was usually brought "only two or three months prior to the games." This, he added, "does not help much, especially when compared to other teams." For example, he said, "the Qatar team has been training under the same coach for four years."

A second factor cited by members of the team was finances.

Some players said they had to leave work for practising, which posed a heavy financial burden on their budgets. "We have to leave work for practice and no bus is provided for our transportation," one player said.

Responding to these claims, Mr. Naghaway defended the federation's position and said that the federation does not receive as much money as it would like to in order to enable them to carry out programmes in their minds.

Another difficulty cited by the players was the compulsory military service. According to one player, who refused to be identified, the compulsory service posed "some difficulties for the team including physical drain as well as lost time."

"One of our players has been away for three months," the player said. "He just came one day before the championships — without any training." There are seven players serving in the compulsory military service.

Low morale resulting from negligence on the part of the federation was cited as another reason behind bad performance. "No officials from the federation came to check on us during the championships," a member of the national team said. They are concerned with the success of the championships rather than the team and our performance," another member complained.

Members of the women's team echoed the same complaints. They also complained that the men's national team "gets more attention" both financially and in terms of training.

Another complaint was the lack of medical provisions for both teams. "Injuries are frequent, especially among the main players, and there are not enough back-up players for the team to depend on. The result is that those who get injured have to carry on with their training and aggravate their injuries, even further," one member of the women's team said. She added that there were no specialists for sports injuries, and "we have to pay for the expenses of the doctor ourselves." She explained that "the people responsible know that, but nothing is done about it."

Asked to comment on these claims, Mr. Abdallah Salman, an official from the federation said that for the championship "we had a committee of two doctors on call twenty-four hours." Mr. Salman did not comment on the issue of providing medical service to the teams outside the championships.

Oxford beats Rangers in English soccer

LONDON (R) — Attacking midfielder Richard Hill made a storybook start to his English First Division soccer career with Oxford United when he scored on his debut to help topple leaders Queen's Park Rangers 2-0 on Saturday.

Hill, who was playing in the Fourth Division 12 months ago, fired a 15th minute goal that was set up by David Bardsley, the other half of a £500,000 (\$825,000) deal that took the pair from Watford on Thursday.

Midfielder Ray Houghton struck the home side's second goal three minutes before half-time as Oxford, who had lost their last three games, ended a seven-match unbeaten league sequence by the London club.

Although Rangers stayed top of the table, second-placed Tottenham closed the gap to two points with a 1-0 away win against local rivals West Ham. Defender Chris Fairclough hit the 38th minute winner — his first goal since joining Tottenham from Nottingham Forest in the close season.

Manchester United slumped to their first defeat in eight league games at the hands of champions Everton, whose 2-1 win, at their Goodison Park ground was inspired by a two-goal burst from striker Wayne Clarke.

Clarke, returning to action after a thigh strain, scored in the 37th and 57th minutes, while Northern Irish International Norman Whiteside pulled back in the 59th minute.

Chelsea jumped three places to third — four points behind Rangers — with a 1-0 home win against Norwich after Kerry Dixon celebrated his recall to the attack in place of the injured Gordon Durie by scoring in the fourth minute.

Former European champions Nottingham Forest also improved three places, to fourth by trouncing Football Association (F.A.) Cup winners Coventry 3-0 away.

Forest were set on course by 18-year-old midfielder Terry Wilson, who hit the opening goal in the 19th minute in his first full game for the club. The visitors clinched victory when Franz Carr and Stuart Pearce, from the penalty spot, each scored in a two-minute second half burst.

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Ferrari secures pole position

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Austrian Gerhard Berger snatched Ferrari's first pole position for more than two years when he produced the fastest lap in the rain-hit second practice for Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix.

Berger swept round the tight and demanding Estoril circuit on Saturday in one minute 17.620 seconds to edge out Briton Nigel Mansell in a Williams by just 0.3 of a second. Berger's average speed was 201.752 kph.

Berger's success gave Ferrari their first pole position since Italian Michele Alboreto dominated practice for the Brazilian Grand Prix in April 1985. It was Berger's first pole.

"This is not down to any last-minute changes but thanks to the hard work the team have made in improving the car all season," Berger said. "We were four and a half seconds behind pole in Rio for the first Grand Prix but we are now on pole."

"Our engineers have done a fantastic job."

Berger and Mansell, who desperately needs a victory to maintain his flagging challenge for the title, will fill the front row of the grid.

Behind them come Frenchman Alain Prost in a McLaren and Mansell's Williams teammate Nelson Piquet of Brazil who heads the World Championship standings. Piquet did not participate in Saturday's qualifying session.

Brazil's Ayrton Senna, in a Lotus, was fifth quickest

Yugoslav wins gold; cheers go to Syrian

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Olympic champion Saban Tresstana of Yugoslavia captured a gold medal in freestyle wrestling at the Mediterranean Games on Saturday, but the biggest cheers went to hometown hero Mohammad Masouti.

Tresstana's gold came on the final day of wrestling and the first track and field events at the 18-nation, Olympic-style tournament.

Tresstana, a 1984 Olympic gold medal winner, easily defeated Syria's Mahmoud Massouti in the 57-kilogramme class of freestyle wrestling before a crowd that seemed to be double the arena's 800-spectator capacity.

The ecstatic crowd exploded after the first match when Mohammad Massouti won the 48-kilo class with a 7-4 victory over Mirko Dimceviski of Yugoslavia.

The diminutive wrestler hoisted his coach onto his shoulders and marched about the arena as the crowd cheered.

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Filipino 'Asian sprinter queen' Lydia de Vega clinches gold at the Jakarta games

Indonesians break Asian records at home games

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian athletes broke three Southeast Asian games records and collected 15 gold medals Friday, bringing its total gold count to 173.

The Philippines now has 59 golds for a narrow three-gold edge over third-place Thailand.

Budi Dharma of Indonesia won the men's hammer throw with a distance of 52.08 metres, breaking his own games record of 49.85 metres set in 1981.

Compatriot Yosephine Mahuse won the women's shot put with a new games record of 14.34

metres. The old mark of 14.21 metres was set by Jennifer Tinlay of Burma in 1977.

Rachmad Sumarsono, also of Indonesia, won the gold in the men's 10-kilometre walk in 45 minutes, 19.01 seconds, smashing the games record of 45:27.24 set by J. Subrahmanian of Malaysia in 1985.

Sprinter Lydia de Vega of the Philippines won the women's 200-metre in 23.57 seconds. Compatriot Agripina Dela Cruz won the women's 100-metre hurdles in 14.19 seconds.

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Haughey tells Irish to stop living beyond their means

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey told the people of Ireland on Friday that they were living beyond their means and that drastic public spending cuts imposed by his government were vital.

"We had to get back to reality, living within our means," he told a business award meeting in his first major speech on the economy since the start of the summer.

Giving an upbeat review of an economy battered by high unemployment, rising debt and mass emigration, he said: "In six months this government has laid the foundations for national recovery."

Mr. Haughey returned as prime minister for the third time in March to run a country in which one in five people was jobless and 30,000 youngsters emigrated every year.

The national debt is 24 billion pounds (\$36 billion).

His minority government's austerity campaign has won the backing of opposition parties who do not intend to challenge his next get-tough budget in January.

"The government cannot be intimidated or forced by pressure or threats to change by doing what it knows to be necessary," Mr. Haughey said.

Health-service cuts provoked protests by nurses and doctors. A strike by electricity workers ended with the government refusing to pay large salary rises. Plans have been launched to trim the public service by 10,000 jobs.

As signs of economic recovery in Ireland, Mr. Haughey cited a sharp drop in interest rates, a buoyant stock market, inflation below three per cent, a balance of trade surplus over one billion pounds (\$1.5 billion) and more foreign investment.

He reiterated a pledge to reduce government borrowing again next year and said: "We are engaged in getting the public finances right."

Ghana to fire 13,000 employees

ACCRA (AP) — An additional 13,000 employees of the state-owned Cocoa Marketing Board are to be fired as part of a 57 per cent staff reduction programme, the board's deputy director has announced.

Mr. Joseph Hayford told journalists the reduction will save the government 400 million cedis (\$2.47 million) in salaries each year. The affected workers are to leave their posts by June of 1988, Mr. Hayford said.

The cocoa board reductions is part of a World Bank programme to rehabilitate the country's cocoa sector. So far, \$40 million have been spent in replanting and reclamation of abandoned cocoa farms.

Ghana, once the world's largest cocoa producer, saw production drop from 600,000 tons a year to less than 150,000 tons since gaining independence from Britain in 1957. The new firings will bring the cocoa board workforce, which at one time employed 105,000, to 18,000.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fichter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an important time to organize your work and your life. Don't rely on hunches to day, but stay with those methods which have proven effective.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You'll have some really excellent ideas for improving your lot in life. Draw ideas for enjoying new interests, and impress some influential people you will encounter.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Before taking off to see old friends and making new ones, first try to improve your lot in life. Draw ideas for enjoying new interests, and impress some influential people you will encounter.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Handle personal correspondence and be careful about how you phrase things. Work on improving the home situation. Inviting some friends in could help.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Try to get most of your work out of the way early, as you have an inclination which will take up some time later. Be kind to your mate this evening.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): Try to help out a clever associate who has bitten off more than he can chew. The two of you, working together, can make great partners and achieve a good deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Find a way to make your activities more productive which will display your talents to those who are in a position to help you. Enjoy a relaxing hobby this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Get into the details of a new project this afternoon which you hadn't noticed before. Ignoring these could lead to a troubling situation. Your mate

will do something to please you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Work on improving your lot, which is not as well off as you may have thought. Delay handling a personal problem until later in the day. Drive very cautiously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Get some advice from a friend who has had very diverse experiences. This person can help you greatly. A new and profitable opportunity will arise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Try to build more accord with your loved one this evening. Some interesting people you encounter can be of great help to your career. Do some reading tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): An associate will be unusually willing to go along with your ideas, but don't be suspicious. Show your appreciation for this support, and you can get along better.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Take any health treatments you may need. Don't let any physical problems pass by without attention, as they'll only resurface. You can have quite a good time today.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be quite impressive due to an unusual amount of intelligence which will be apparent even while still quite young. Your progeny will have great humanitarian interests and will be quite successful if you make sure to give him or her plenty of praise for a job well done. Plenty of healthy exercises will be needed.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Sept. 12, '87 and ending Wednesday, Sept. 16, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	100	129	1.280	1.290	1.000
Petra Bank	1098	2128	2.000	1.850	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1100	2056	1.900	1.850	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6387	10824	1.680	1.700	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	6732	8176	1.190	1.220	1.000
Housing Bank	16260	27161	1.680	1.670	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	492	8159	16.450	16.550	5.000
Arab Bank	480	53823	116.500	116.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	10778	26766	2.480	2.480	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	40470	40551	0.950	1.020	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	8620	10565	1.720	1.720	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	51084	34919	0.680	0.700	1.000
National Financial Investments	500	777	1.550	1.560	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	6210	4371	0.720	0.700	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	7201	6682	0.910	0.920	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	400	528	1.320	1.320	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	2983	16981	5.740	5.660	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	1433	1222	0.850	0.860	1.000
Jordan Life Insurance	200	2200	11.000	11.000	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	5900	4902	0.820	0.850	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	206550	216569	0.970	1.030	1.000
Universal Insurance	1600	1120	0.690	0.700	1.000
General Insurance	50	70	1.420	1.400	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izzah Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahlyia Insurance	230	297	1.300	1.290	1.000
Arab Beigian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	1100	1395	1.320	1.330	1.000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	4725	2977	0.630	0.630	1.000
Danco for Housing and Investment	24739	11286	0.450	0.440	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Anqaro)	749	304	0.400	0.410	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipment	156	19	0.630	0.620	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	18200	5460	0.810	0.800	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	10060	16289	1.570	1.540	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	140	140	1.000	1.000	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	9350	8091	0.870	0.870	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	507	4065	2.000	2.100	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	1500	585	0.390	0.390	1.000
Jordan Dairy	33918	37257	1.120	1.110	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	17835	37622	2.050	2.150	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	20825	20734	1.000	0.990	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2618	6283	2.400	2.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	11969	18079	1.510	1.520	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1085	5432	5.050	5.100	1.000
Aladdin Industries	9350	9359	0.970	0.980	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	33510	57421	1.710	1.720	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	6314	6399	1.030	1.020	1.000
Chemical Industries	10864	12773	1.140	1.160	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	19414	11377	0.510	0.600	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	4000	1360	1.360	1.360	1.000
National Steel Industries	158156	418917	2.560	2.700	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	28051	30283	0.980	1.100	1.000
General Mining	560	868	1.550	1.550	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3855	28807	7.280	7.260	5.000
Jordan Lanes & Brick	16025	4046	0.230	0.260	1.000
National Industries	2864	1053	0.510	0.510	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	2850	770	0.260	0.270	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	850	689	0.810	0.810	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	1210	968	0.800	0.800	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1860	2158	1.160	1.160	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	250	200	0.800	0.800	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	500	1240	2.440	2.480	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	5000	2573	0.510	0.530	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Films Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	7650	4278	0.520	0.560	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1848	4056	2.230	2.100	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	48080	45225	0.930	0.950	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	38014	38101	1.020	1.010	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	83617	234096	3.120	2.990	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	63545	62346	0.980	0.980	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	9347	8662	0.870	0.910	1.000
Grand total	1,090,989	1,644,058			

GNP in U.S. strengthens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, bolstered by a reviving manufacturing sector, grew at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent in the spring, slightly faster than previously thought, the government reported Friday.

The Commerce Department said the strength in the gross national product (GNP), the broadest measure of economic health, came from a big turnaround in business investment and the best showing for U.S. exports in seven years.

Exports climbed 17.9 per cent, the biggest quarterly rise since the first quarter of 1980.

Business, spurred by higher export sales, boosted its spending to expand and modernize production facilities substantially. Business investment spending was rising at an annual rate of 11.7 per cent in the second quarter, the biggest burst of investment spending in two years.

The 2.5 per cent GNP growth rate for the April-June quarter was up from an estimate a month ago that showed the GNP growing at 2.3 per cent rate in the spring.

For the first six months of the year, the GNP grew at a rate of 3.5 per cent, even faster than the government's forecast for the entire year.

In 1986, the GNP grew 2.9 per cent, and the government is predicting that the economy will strengthen to a 3.2 per cent growth rate for all of 1987. To meet that goal, economic growth will have to average 3.0 per cent in the last two quarters of the year, a figure in line with most private forecasts.

While growth is up for the year, inflation also is rising more rapidly. An inflation index tied to the GNP grew at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent in the spring, following a growth rate of 4.5 per cent from January through March.

Both quarters showed inflation rates well above the 2.7 per cent rate for all of 1986, when falling energy prices helped dampen inflation.

The 2.5 per cent GNP growth rate in the spring was down from 4.4 per cent in the January-March quarter. However, economists said the overall balance of growth was much healthier in the spring.

In the first three months of the year almost all of the strength came from a huge buildup in business inventories, which was occurring at the same time consumer spending was posting a rare decline.

In the spring, consumer spending rebounded, increasing by \$11.9 billion at an annual rate, and most other sectors of the economy showed improved strength as well.

The big growth in exports was offset somewhat by an 11.1 per cent jump in imports, spurred upward by a higher foreign oil bill.

leaving with sour grapes or irritation. I'm leaving with great respect for the governmental process and for President Reagan."

"I don't like to lose and I love to win. And I've lost a few. But, on the whole, I have no regrets at all," Mr. Sprinkel added.

He said he recommended to the president as candidates to succeed him two other members of the council, Mr. Thomas Gale Moore and Mr. Michael Mussa.

Mr. Sprinkel, a conservative economist, had been a frequent critic of the Fed's monetary policies in his former post as assistant treasury secretary for monetary affairs, and before that, as chief economist for the Harris Trust and Savings Bank in Chicago.

However, as the president's chief economic adviser, Mr. Sprinkel refused to comment on Fed policies or engage in any further "Fed bashing."

Mr. Sprinkel is a prominent member of a school of economists who consider themselves "monetarists." They subscribe to an economic theory holding that small changes in the nation's money supply have a direct bearing on the economy, particularly on inflation.

The theory contends that an increase in the money supply, over which the Federal Reserve has indirect control, will produce a corresponding increase in inflation.

However, the theory has been out of favor in recent years among many economists as the nation's money supply surged while inflation remained relatively tame.

Mr. Sprinkel's low public profile contrasted sharply with that of his immediate predecessor, Mr. Martin Feldstein, who frequently made public statements on the danger of budget deficits and the need to raise taxes.

Colombians see need for rich nations to take bitter economic medicine

FRANKFURT (R) — Rich nations will have to take some of the bitter medicine of economic reform already swallowed by Third World debtors if they want to solve the debt crisis, Colombian finance officials say.

They were in Frankfurt last week to convince German and Swiss banks to join an international group lending their country \$1.06 billion.

Unlike many Third World debtors, Colombia has always made payments on its \$15 billion debt on time. But it sympathizes with the plight of others who aren't so fortunate.

"Some developing countries have taken all the necessary measures to order their economic policies. Why can't the developed nations have that political will?" Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon told Reuters.

Typically, when a debtor seeks to reschedule — delay — payments due on its loans, bankers and agencies like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demand economic reform and austerity.

That is unpopular in many countries. Ending subsidies to farmers and devaluing currencies frees money to make debt payments, but also puts up prices.

Industrial nations, meanwhile, have agreed that they ought to take unpopular economic measures to end world trade imbalances and buoy a sluggish global economy, all while keeping the dollar from going into a tailspin.

The United States has promised to cut its budget deficit while Japan and West Germany have said they will boost their economies. But deficit cutting can mean less money for social services and boosting economies risks inflation.

Colombia has not been impressed by their efforts. Public credit director, Mr. Mauricio Cabrera Galvis, said Colombia has already been hurt.

The rising interest rates needed to steady a weak dollar mean his country has to pay out more just to keep up with its debt payments.

"We spent weeks and months discussing a 1/16 or an 1/8 of a (percentage) point and then suddenly the (U.S.) prime rate and LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rates) jump half a point," he said. The interest on Colombia's loans is pegged to the prime rate and LIBOR, and rises or falls with those rates.

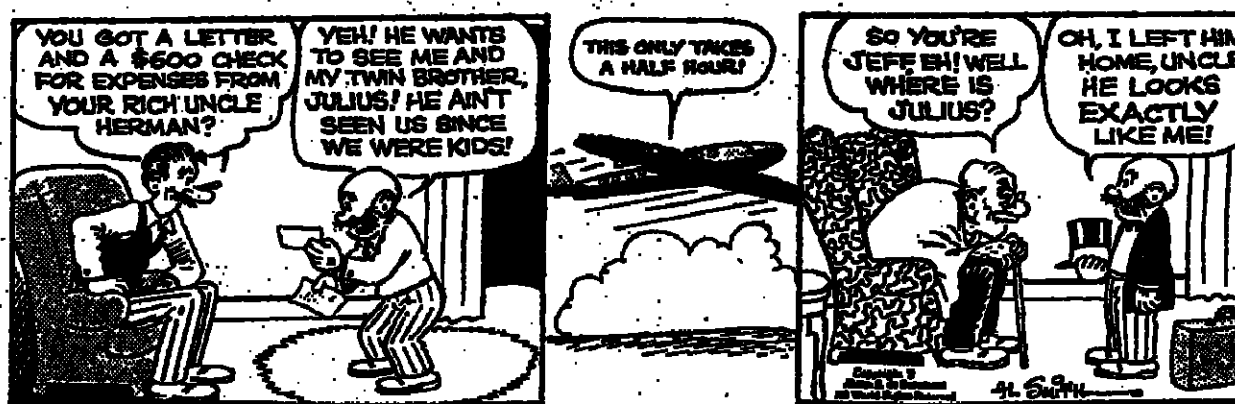
"It is not possible for a lasting solution to the debt crisis to come just from adjusting the economies of debtor countries," Mr. Cabrera said. "We need a global solution. The industrial countries have to make adjustments as well."

The IMF meets next week in Washington.

Peanuts



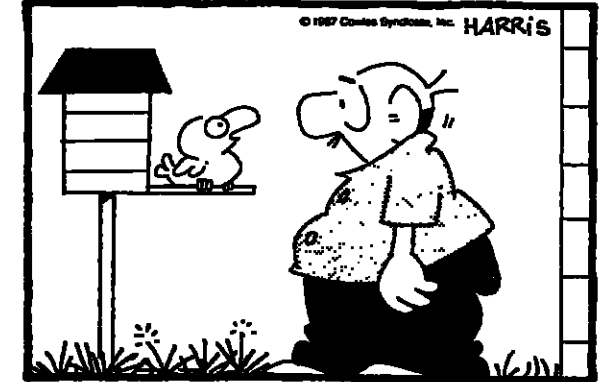
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

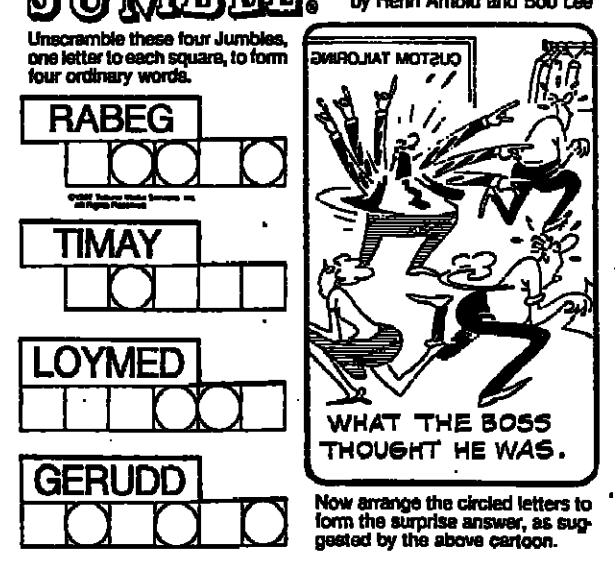


THE BETTER HALF



"I'm the Bluebird of Happiness and you're entitled to 3 wishes! I accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express!"

JUMBLE



Answer here: _____ TO _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DAILY APART PILLAR INDICT
Answer: Sometimes people who don't live by principle end up with plenty of this—PRINCIPAL

Tigers reiterate opposition to Sri Lankan peace pact

COLOMBO (R) — The powerful Tamil Tigers separatist group reiterated its opposition to Sri Lanka's peace pact on Saturday and announced a non-violent campaign against it.

The group said its campaign would be aimed at both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments, which jointly back the July 29 peace accord.

Tiger's leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, in a statement issued amid mounting Tamil protests against the pact, said Colombo was using it to suppress the Tamil minority and India was doing nothing to stop it.

He accused Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who signed the accord as guarantor, of "lethargy and disinterest" in fulfilling Tamil aspirations.

"So we have decided to continue our struggle through non-violence against the governments," Mr. Prabhakaran said. His statement, published in news-

papers here, gave no details of the planned protests.

However, it underlined growing tension between the Tigers and India, the militants' main backer before the peace pact.

This week New Delhi ordered its peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka to fire at Tamil militants refusing to surrender their arms, after the Tigers massacred 75 rivals in the eastern district of Batticaloa.

The pact has ended four years' fighting between Tamil separatists and Sri Lankan troops but reforms to give the Tamils virtual self-rule in the north and east appear stalled.

Tamil protests spearheaded by the Tigers erupted in violence on Friday.

Hundreds of people blockaded offices and stormed police stations in Jaffna city and towns across Jaffna peninsula. One police station was set on fire.

In the eastern port of Trincomalee, four people were killed and 40 injured when Indian troops and local police broke up a riot between protesting Tamils and members of the majority Sinhalese community who attacked them. The Indians denied reports that they opened fire.

The Tamils were supporting a "death fast" by 23-year-old Prabhakaran lieutenant Thileepan whose protest appears part of an attempt to rally Tamil opinion behind the Tigers.

Thileepan began fasting in a Hindu temple on Monday and says he will fast until death unless Colombo grants a series of demands including freedom for remaining Tamil prisoners and a halt to Sinhalese "colonisation" in the north and east.

Gorbachev absent from Moscow celebration

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev was conspicuously absent from major Red Square celebrations on Saturday marking Moscow's 840th anniversary and the coming 70th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Moscow Mayor Valery Saikin presided over the Red Square opening ceremonies, with Boris Yeltsin, Moscow City Communist Party leader and a non-voting member of the ruling politburo, at his side atop the red granite Lenin Mausoleum.

"For our big plans we need peace," Mr. Saikin declared, without mentioning the Soviet-U.S. agreement in Washington on Friday to sign a treaty banning all medium-range missiles at a third superpower summit this autumn.

The Soviet news media have refrained from immediate comment on the accord to seal the first treaty abolishing an entire class of weapons since the dawn of the nuclear age.

As Mr. Saikin finished speaking and declared the holiday officially open, hundreds of colourful balloons trailing banners reading "Moscow — 840 years" were released into the air.

Seventy young women dressed in red to mark 70 years of Soviet power laid flowers at the tomb of state founder Vladimir Lenin in a prelude to Nov. 7 celebrations marking the Bolshevik Revolution anniversary.

Armoured personnel carriers rumbled past the official reviewing stand, veterans who defended Moscow during World War II marched stiffly past and a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The ceremonies marking the capital's founding by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky in 1147 were strictly controlled by police. Only people issued with special passes were allowed onto Red Square.

In other parts of the city, festivities got under way with parades of giant floats accompanied by folk singers, jugglers and baton twirlers.

The results of the Washington talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, greeted with much fanfare throughout the world, received minimal attention in the Soviet Union.

Pravda and other national newspapers carried Friday's joint statement announcing the plan for Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan to sign a medium- and shorter-range nuclear missile elimination treaty at an autumn summit.

Leftist leader killed in Manila ambush

MANILA (R) — Unidentified gunmen ambushed and shot dead a leader of a leftist coalition opposed to President Corason Aquino on Saturday, a coalition spokesman said.

He said Leandro Alejandro, secretary-general of the New Patriotic Alliance (Bayan), was shot by men riding a white van near the organisation's offices in the capital, and died later in hospital.

Mr. Alejandro's driver was critically wounded, the spokesman said.

Mr. Alejandro was the third leftist leader to be ambushed in 10 months.

Labour leader Rolando Olalia was killed in November and Ber-

nabe Byscayno, alleged founder of the Communist New People's Army (NPA), survived an ambush in May.

The Bayan spokesman said Mr. Alejandro was attacked while returning to the organisation's offices from a news conference where he announced plans for nationwide protests on Monday to condemn what he called a crackdown on leaders of cause-oriented groups.

On Wednesday, he received a subpoena to appear before a Manila court to explain his involvement in a transport strike late last month which nearly crippled the capital.

In May, he stood in congressional elections for the People's

Party, the political party of the legal left.

Armed Forces spokesman Col. Hones'o Ileta said on the private radio station DZRH that he had received military field reports saying Mr. Alejandro was ambushed.

"The first report we got was that he was dead on the spot," he said.

Presidential Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno condemned the killing.

He said it was a "very tragic travesty of law and order, especially at a time when President Aquino is calling upon everyone to join hands and enable the country to reach the higher ground of law and order."

Hirohito may undergo surgery, reports say

TOKYO (Agencies) — Emperor Hirohito is suffering from an intestinal disorder and may have to undergo surgery, news reports said Saturday.

Hirohito, 86, has been plagued by occasional nausea since mid-August and was recently diagnosed by court physicians as having an intestinal disease, Kyodo News Service said.

"We have to check some more to determine whether or not to send the emperor to the hospital and conduct an operation," Tomohiko Tomita, director-general of the Imperial Household Agency, was quoted as saying.

A spokesman for the agency, reached by the Associated Press, refused to comment on the reports, but said the emperor had cancelled a scheduled trip to a Sumo wrestling match Sunday.

The emperor met with visiting Iceland President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir at the imperial palace on Friday morning for 30 minutes and attended a 45-minute lecture later that afternoon, Kyodo said.

But Emperor Hirohito, an accomplished biologist, skipped his regular study Saturday at his private laboratory inside the palace, it said.

On his birthday in April, the world's longest-reigning monarch retired early from a banquet, complaining that he didn't feel well. He did not attend a tea ceremony for the diplomatic corps later that day, but Imperial Household Agency officials denied that he was ill.

Hungarian premier welcomes dialogue with dissidents

BUDAPEST (R) — Prime Minister Karoly Grosz said on Friday he would maintain a dialogue with Hungary's dissidents because their views were valid and could sometimes draw the Communist government's attention to problems.

At his first international news conference since taking over two months ago, the 57-year-old technocrat also said the government should take over more responsibility from the ruling Communist Party.

In remarks which surprised correspondents by their frankness, Mr. Grosz said there were people in Hungary who thought in a different way — "the opposition, or dissidents."

"We have to continue a dialogue with them on every issue which is current," he said in response to a question from a Western reporter.

"Everyone has the right to have a different view on all questions," he said, adding: "We have never made the assumption that people with different views are our enemies."

Some analysts saw his remarks

as an extension of the liberalisation policies of veteran Hungarian Communist Party leader Janos Kadar, who coined the phrase: "If you are not against us you are for us." This was an inversion of Lenin's classic thesis: "If you are not for us you are against us."

Hungary, under Mr. Kadar since 1956, has traditionally been the East Bloc's most tolerant regime on dissidents. No one is known to be in prison for purely political activities, although some conscientious objectors have been jailed for refusing military service.

Mr. Grosz, who handled questions confidently through an interpreter, said dissidents helped the government "if they give voice to our weakness and problems."

"Sometimes they call our attention to very real problems," he said, adding: "We (the government) do not have a monopoly on ways of solving them."

The Hungarian leader did, however, warn that the government would have nothing to do with those "who don't want to

5 killed, 16 injured in Pakistan bomb blast

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (R) — At least five people died and 16 were injured when a bomb exploded at the main bus station in the northern city of Rawalpindi on Saturday, Pakistan's fourth such blast in 10 days.

The explosion was the latest in a series which Pakistan blames on the Soviet-backed government in neighbouring Afghanistan, and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo vowed the bombing wave would not deflect Islamabad from its Afghan policy.

"This will not dampen the spirit of the (Pakistani) people but will raise it," he told reporters as he left for New York to speak at the United Nations.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which killed three people instantly and two more later, according to hospital officials.

Witnesses said the powerful blast hurled one body about 80 feet (25 metres). Bus drivers used jacks to lift rubble off some of the

injured. Some small shops were also damaged.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack. But authorities have blamed a series of bomb blasts in the past few years on the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

More than 170 people died in bomb explosions earlier this year, including 73 killed by two car bombs in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi on July 14.

A car bomb on Wednesday killed 12 people and injured 33 in Peshawar, capital of North-West Frontier province. Six days earlier, a time bomb killed two people and injured about 40 in the Punjab province capital of Lahore and a car bomb injured about 20 in Peshawar.

Pakistan accommodates about three million Afghan refugees and most of the Western-backed guerrilla groups fighting the Afghan government.

Citing peace plan contras free 81 Sandinista soldiers

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (R) — Nicaraguan contra rebels freed 81 Sandinista soldiers inside Costa Rica on Friday, saying they wanted to show support for a Central American peace plan signed last month.

Rebel officials said the group included alleged Sandinista spies and an officer who said he was sent to assassinate their military commander. Some were captured in 1984.

The release was designed to show support for the Guatemala peace plan, they added.

Contra guerrillas and Costa Rican government officials said the prisoners were released at Guanacaste airport in northern Costa Rica, 60 kilometres from the Nicaraguan frontier.

The rebel officials said another 20 to 30 prisoners could not fit into the plane but would be freed as soon as possible.

Government sources said the prisoners arrived on board a plane by way of Honduran military base at Aguacate and a refuelling stop somewhere in El Salvador. They did not specify to whom the plane belonged.

The new Central American peace plan, signed by five regional presidents in Guatemala City on Aug. 7, includes calls for a ceasefire in the region's three guerrilla wars, amnesty for political prisoners, democratic reforms and an end to foreign support for rebels, such as U.S. backing for the contras.

Who should be given amnesty and how to carry out the programme is still being discussed by the five governments.

U.S. to close 2 embassies

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will close two embassies and 13 consulates as part of a sweeping new economy drive, Secretary of State George Shultz said on Friday.

Mr. Shultz also announced plans to cut an unspecified number of the department's 22,000 worldwide employees by merging jobs, encouraging early retirement and consolidating overseas operations. Among the positions to be cut are those of 21 senior aides up to the deputy assistant secretary level.

In a speech to department employees, he said the economy

measures were not in the best interest of the United States, but were necessary because Congress had reduced funding.

Congress earmarked \$1.61 billion for the department's operating expenses in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

The department says it would need \$1.74 billion to run the same level of operations in fiscal 1988. But it now expects to receive no more than \$1.62 billion, leaving at least an \$84 million shortfall.

Department officials said the embassies to be shut were in Equatorial Guinea and the Comoros, off the East African coast.

U.K. Liberals seek to ditch ragtag image

HARROGATE, England (R) — Britain's small Liberal Party, dogged by an image as a ragtag grouping of cranks and causes, took a radical step this week towards ending half a century of political eclipse.

By an emphatic margin that surprised even their leaders, delegates to the party's annual congress voted 998-21 Thursday to start merger talks with their fellow minor opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Liberal leader David Steel, a 49-year-old Scot who has led the party for 11 years, forced the merger issue after the two parties suffered badly in the June general election, which they contested as an Alliance.

Mr. Steel looks set to head a united party to be formed early next year.

In private meetings this week, he made it clear he would resign if the merger talks failed or ran

into serious snags. In his closing address to the assembly on Friday, he told the 1,000 delegates: "My future and active participation in the new party is lost."

The Liberals, who governed for long periods from the 1860s to the 1920s, entered into an electoral pact with the SDP when it was formed by breakaway Labour politicians in 1981.

That Alliance failed to break the domination of British politics by the two main parties, the ruling Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party, and it has only 22 of the 650 seats in the lower house of parliament, the House of Commons.

The merger issue split the SDP, leading to the resignation of its leader David Owen, a former Labour foreign secretary.

Negotiations over the next few months on the title, structure and

policies of the party will be extensive.

Both parties will meet again in January to review the merger talks and then ballot their members if any issues prove contentious.

Mr. Steel and new SDP leader Robert MacLennan, a fellow Scot, have pledged that the talks will not get bogged down in details.

On Friday Mr. Steel moved away from established Liberal grounds to try to prevent a collision over nuclear defence. He said the new party would guarantee "a nuclear element in defence for as long as it is needed to deter a perceived Soviet threat."

Adoption of a motion supporting nuclear disarmament by Britain alone at last year's Liberal Party assembly strained relations with the SDP and cost the Alliance electoral support.

FBI asks librarians to watch for spies

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI said it has asked librarians in New York City to watch for and report on library users who might be recruiting intelligence agents or gathering information for hostile powers. Library officials, however, voiced fears of intrusion into the private and academic freedom of library users, and called the FBI move an effort to turn librarians into informers, the New York Times has reported. The FBI told the Times that its library awareness programme is part of a national counterintelligence initiative. It began in the spring, after a Soviet employee of the United Nations recruited a Queens College student as an agent through contacts made at a library, the newspaper said. The diplomat, Genadi Zakharov, was caught and exchanged for Nicholas Daniloff, an American reporter accused of spying in the Soviet Union. The FBI said staff members at fewer than 20 libraries in New York City, most of them academic rather than public, have been asked to cooperate, the Times reported. FBI officials in Washington would not discuss the scope of the intelligence effort, the Times said. James Fox, deputy assistant director of the New York FBI office, said he is not sure whether other local offices had made similar requests. "Hostile intelligence has had some success working the campuses and libraries, and we're just going around telling people what to be alert for," Mr. Fox said.

Spanish horse plague hits bullfights

MADRID (R) — Several bullfights have been cancelled in Spain due to a lack of mounts for the picadores as an outbreak of equine plague has killed about 200 horses in the past few days. A spokesman for the Bullfighters' Association said: "Some bullfights have been cancelled, but I don't know how many." The spokesman said. A strict ban on transporting horses has been imposed in several provinces due to the epidemic thought to have been imported with a consignment of zebras from Namibia destined for a safari park. France and Portugal have closed their borders to Spanish horses because of the outbreak which threatens Spanish horse exports worth \$2.4 million last year.

70,000 E. Germans attend Dylan's concert

BERLIN (AP) — U.S. singer Bob Dylan drew 70,000 East German fans at an open-air concert in the Treptow district of East Berlin, the state-run news agency ADN has said. The news agency headlined the article with "concert by a living legend," and said Dylan's 1960s songs like Masters of War, and Blowin' in the Wind, had become hymns of the peace movement, and a protest against war and atomic destruction. The concert, in which Dylan also sang Like a Rolling Stone, and a Hard Rain's a Gonna Fall, had the crowd cheering and applauding enthusiastically, ADN said. Dylan's concert was staged in East Berlin as part of Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations that have been ongoing since the beginning of the year.

Expert sees need for donor organs

HOUSTON (R) — Nearly 15,000 people need heart transplants annually, but the lack of donor organs means only about 1,000 can receive life-saving hearts each year, transplant pioneer Dr. Michael DeBakey has said. Dr. DeBakey, speaking at an organ transplant symposium in Houston, said the prospects for increasing the number of available donor hearts are not good. "I have serious doubts in my mind that we'll be able to increase that number much above 2,000 transplants a year in the near future," Dr. DeBakey said. Hearts and other organs for transplant are obtained mainly from young or middle-aged victims of accidents. But family members of those killed are often too upset to agree to donate the life-giving organs, he said. Last year nearly 1,000 heart transplant operations were performed, mainly in U.S. hospitals. Dr. DeBakey and his team of heart specialists at Methodist Hospital in Houston performed 26 heart transplants in 1986. The survival rate for heart transplant patients has steadily improved since the first operation was performed in 1968. Today, 80 per cent of all heart transplant patients are alive one year following their surgery, and 50 per cent are alive five years later. Dr. DeBakey said. He said researchers in Houston were developing new ways to preserve organs for as long as 14 hours after being removed from a donor. Currently, doctors have only about five hours to remove an organ and transplant it.

Deceased to reach out through 'Heavenly Mail'

TOKYO (AP) — The country that produced the overnight automatic breadmaker and portable underwear dryer has come out with a mail service for the dead. For fees ranging from \$70 to \$3,500 "Heavenly Mail" will deliver letters, presents and videotapes made in advance for the deceased to leave their loved ones, according to creator Tsutomu Totani. The amount is based on the type of message delivered, and the amount of time it has to be held. Through "Heavenly Mail," the departed can leave instructions for running companies, introduce themselves to grandchildren they never met and tell family members secrets they took to the grave, Totani said. He admits no one has taken him up on his offer since he launched the service in July, but attributes the lack of interest to inadequate advertising.

Putnam to quit from Columbia Pictures

NEW YORK (R) — David Putnam, one of the few independent producers recruited to run a major Hollywood studio, is resigning as chairman of Columbia Pictures after only a year on the job. The company has announced. Putnam, a Briton whose credits include such acclaimed films as Chariots of Fire and the Killing Fields, both made before he arrived at Columbia, had two years left on his contract at the studio, which is owned by Coca-Cola Company. His resignation comes less than three weeks after Coca-Cola announced that its entertainment businesses, including Columbia, would be merged with Tri-Star Pictures Inc. Speculation had been in the film industry that the merger would force out Putnam, even though Columbia is to be run as a separate entity after the combination. Coca-Cola said Putnam's decision to resign followed a meeting with Victor Kaufman, chairman and chief executive officer of Tri-Star. Putnam will remain in his position until the merger is completed, it said. Only last week Putnam told Variety magazine that he intended to honour his contract at Columbia and would not be affected by the merger. But industry analysts said it was only a matter of time before Putnam and Kaufman clashed.

Soviet duck hunter lands pike in the sky

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet hunter took aim at a duck but landed a fish falling out of the sky, TASS news agency reported on Thursday. It said the hunter spotted a large drake in the rushes of Sarykany Lake in Soviet Central Asia. He took aim but before he pulled the trigger the duck flew off, trailing a thrashing pike. "The pike apparently caught the duck to eat it for lunch, but when the bird gained height the fish had to let it go — only to end up in the hunter's bag," TASS said.

Heir to Dunhill fortune jailed

LONDON (R) — Christopher Dunhill, heir to the Dunhill tobacco fortune, was jailed for two years by a London court on Thursday for supplying cocaine to a friend and handling stolen goods. Judge Anthony Babington said 32-year-old Dunhill, whose family company is part of the billion-dollar Rothmans Group, had been dealing in only small quantities of cocaine and amphetamines. But his sentence should serve as a deterrent. Defence Counsel described Dunhill, who was also convicted of handling stolen tapestries, as a man whose public image for high living contrasted with the reality of financial problems and heavy drinking and drug taking. At a bankruptcy hearing earlier this year he said his financial worries had driven him to drugs.

Soviets not planning more Chernobyl-type reactors

NEW YORK (R) — The Soviet firefighter who oversaw the team which extinguished the Chernobyl nuclear reactor blaze said on Friday the Soviet Union would not build any more reactors of the Chernobyl type.

Major General Igor Kimstach, deputy chief of fire prevention for the Soviet Union, said production of the graphite-core reactors was being discontinued "not because they are dangerous, but because they are uneconomical."

But he said nuclear engineers were also seeking designs that

would reduce the risk of human error in nuclear plants.

"We are working on designing a system where, even if the operator does something wrong, the reactor would automatically lose some of its capacity," Gen. Kimstach said.

Gen. Kimstach, who said he took charge of fighting the Chernobyl fire three hours after the reactor failed, was visiting New York with Lieutenant Colonel Leonid Telyatnikov, the fire chief of Chernobyl.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ATTACK IS THE BEST DEFENSE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q J 6
♥ K J 7
♦ K J 5
♣ 6 3

WEST
♠ 10 2
♥ A Q 3 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 9

EAST
♠ 9 4 3
♥ 9 8
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ K J 7 5

SOUTH
♠ 8 7 5
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ A Q
♣ 10 8 4 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 NT
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT
Pass 2 NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: ?

Two top international teams, Austria and France, were recently invited to Norway to compete with local teams in a sponsored tournament. French internationalist Christian Mari won the Brilliance Prize for this effort against one of the Norwegian teams.

With three-card support for his partner's suit, South might have done better to raise spades rather

than bid no trump at his second turn. However, he was concerned about protecting his diamond holding from a possibly fatal lead through. As a result, his side ended in the second-best contract on the given distribution.

The normal lead against a no trump game is fourth-best from your longest and strongest suit. However, here the bidding suggested that, if given the opportunity, declarer might be able to run nine fast tricks. So Mari, sitting West, decided that he had to attack. As his opening lead, he selected the ace of hearts.

When dummy appeared there was no problem in finding the winning continuation. Mari shifted promptly to ace, queen and another club, and the defenders reeled in the first five tricks.

There is another case where it is not right to lead fourth-best. Assume one of your opponents has opened with a preempt and his partner has bid three no trump. You can assume that declarer has seven tricks in his side's long suit, and if you give away a trick on opening lead you might not get another chance. It is usually correct to lead a high honor to get a look at dummy and partner's signal to help plan the defense.